

Appendix 1

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FINAL DRAFT VERSION (FOR MCC CABINET DECISION 13 APRIL 2016)

Name of Local Authority: Monmouthshire County Council

Name of responsible officer: Matthew Lewis

Job title: Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager

Date of completion: 30 March 2016

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 31st March 2016



Principle Statement

Monmouthshire County Council recognises the value and importance of play in the lives of children and the Authority fully endorses the statement of principle contained in the Single Integrated Plan prepared by the Monmouthshire Local Service Board, which states:

“We also recognise 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.”

Context

Since 2015 responsibility for the lead on play policy rests with the Council’s Tourism Leisure and Culture Service and within that service the Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan has been prepared with assistance from the Community Infrastructure Coordinator, an existing part time member of staff, and also engaged the members of the Council’s Play Strategy Group supplemented by additional input from specialist officers across the Authority. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young Peoples Services has acted as the Lead Member for this piece of work.

The Play Strategy Group has existed in its current form since 1 April 2014 comprising 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 Lead Cabinet Member, Monmouthshire County Council Officers - Children’s Services; Community Focussed Schools; Early Years; Families First; Operations (Grounds and Highways); Planning Policy; Policy and Partnership; Tourism, Leisure & Culture (Sports Development; Leisure Services; Green Infrastructure and Countryside); Youth Service

The Council used contact with children and young people through Youth Services and the 2015 Summer play schemes to obtain

responses to the child questionnaires. We also used existing data to inform certain parts of the audit and action plan, including open space surveys, feedback from the 2015 play schemes, assessments and consultations over the adoption of a new model for the summer play schemes in 2016 (including an independent review of the existing summer play provision and consultations with the parents of disabled children) 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 lack of specific funding; the timescale for carrying out the assessment and preparing the action plan; and undertaking the review of the play sufficiency assessment at the same time as consulting on the adoption of a new model for summer play schemes for 2016.

The Authority proposes to use the Play Strategy 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.

Partnership working

To build on the 2013 assessment we have undertaken targeted consultation with the Town and larger Community Councils specifically to consider play scheme play provision in the county and in each of their areas. Torfaen County Borough Council's Play Service also undertook an independent review of our summer play schemes during 2015 which involved extensive consultation including with third sector and other organisations.

The Play Strategy Group includes wider representation of active organisations, including registered social landlords operating in the County and they have been consulted on this review of the play sufficiency assessment and action plan. Consultation and discussion

has also taken place with other Single Integrated Plan partnerships, for example the Monmouthshire Environment Partnership.

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

Consultation and participation

We used a child questionnaire as the main means for consulting with children. That questionnaire was based on the standard questions suggested by Play Wales. The views of children were obtained at play sessions held in Summer 2015 and by the Youth Service and particularly focussed on barriers to play. This brought into focus 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).

We have also been consulting, partly in the same time period, on the future of our summer play schemes. We recognise that despite these consultations our overall view of access to play opportunities, how best to better support play and what barriers stop play requires further examination, especially if we are to better relate to other initiatives such as the development of active travel routes on a local scale. Hence an action on obtaining further local data in our towns and rural areas is set out in the attached action plan.

Maximising resources

The financial climate remain very 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 has provided inclusive play opportunities. The Sports Development & Leisure services promote recreational and sport involvement and also make specific provision for children with disabilities. Children's Services use their budget to support families with children with disabilities to access suitable play provision

The Council has organised summer holiday play schemes at the four leisure centres in the county and it has also operated a community based play scheme in Bulwark on behalf of Chepstow Town Council – these play schemes are partly funded by contributions from Town and Community Councils in Monmouthshire. The Council intends to adopt a new model for community play in 2016, also supported by funding from Town and Community Councils and working in partnership with other providers, e.g. registered social landlords.

Despite the lack of a dedicated budget resources have been prioritised to support inclusive play opportunities, including retaining and continuing to utilise Families First grant to support inclusive access. Families First funding supported the independent review of Summer play provision carried out by Torfaen Play Service. The Council has sought 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 fully reached the Council has secured, and continues to work to secure, developer contributions (through Section 106 agreements) to this end. The Council has adopted Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance which recognises increasing play opportunities as a benefit and a key design consideration.

Play Opportunity Grant has been successfully received in 13/14, 14/15 and 15/16. In 2015/16 it funded disabilities outdoor play space (Gilwern Outdoor Centre); Inclusive Play sessions (Youth Service & Sports Development); Outdoor Play Equipment (Old Station, Tintern); support for children with complex medical needs. Whilst the Play Opportunities Grant is very welcome its late delivery within the financial year (in February in 2016) has significantly restricted the opportunity to support longer term activities / programmes.

Groundwork Wales has delivered Sustainable Play, funded by Welsh Government’s Children and Families Delivery Grant in communities of Monmouthshire during 2015.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Single Integrated Plan

Play is identified in the Single Integrated Plan as a noted above and the plan includes action to ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities. The 2013 -16 Outcome Agreement with Welsh Government contained reference to play: Theme 1: Improving school attainment includes “To ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities” and Theme 5: Improving early years’ experiences - including access to physical activity and play for children and young people; to complete a Monmouthshire Play sufficiency audit and address areas of improvement identified.

The Play Strategy Group’s membership and terms of reference were reviewed in January 2015 by the Single Integrated Plan

Performance Group to ensure a robust link to the Single Integrated Plan, clarity of role and reporting. The Play Strategy Group is recognised as one of the key partnerships feeding in to the Single Integrated 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.

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

The Lead Director and Lead Member for children and young people's services are Sarah McGuinness and Councillor Liz Hackett Pain respectively. The Play Monitoring Group role is taken by the Play Strategy Group (see above for terms of reference) which has a wide membership (see above). The group is facilitated by the Policy and Engagement team. Since reforming with new terms of reference in 2015 the group has met on two occasions and the review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan will help focus its future work. 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 the Creating and Active and Healthy Monmouthshire Strategy Group and is keen to explore integrated solutions with shared outcomes where possible.

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 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.

The General Comments: for each matter should give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance.

The template should be monitored by the officer who is co-ordinating the Assessment and reviewed on a regular basis by the Play Sufficiency Working Group.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the area is classified as one of disadvantage/deprivation and whether a 5 year population projection is available.

RAG Status

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

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is data broken down by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)	GREEN	GREEN	Up to date 2011 Census data is kept both at ward and LSOA level by the Council's Planning Policy Section.		Using this data to contribute to better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities.
There is up to date data for ages:	AMBER	GREEN	Welsh Government population projections are available based on the 2011 Census. The latest Mid-Year Population Estimates available are for 2014 (published 25/06/2015).		
0-3	AMBER	GREEN	3,481 children aged 0-3		
4-7	AMBER	GREEN	3,927 children aged 4-7		
8-12	AMBER	GREEN	4,902 children aged 8-12		
13-15	AMBER	GREEN	3,308 children aged 13-15		
16-17	AMBER	GREEN	2,484 children aged 16-17		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is an up to date recorded number of disabled children in each age group	AMBER	AMBER	This information is available.		
There is up to date information regarding the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend Welsh medium schools	AMBER	AMBER	Data regarding Welsh being the first language is collected via Pupil Level Annual School Census	This relates to pupils in the school system in Monmouthshire	
There is up to date information regarding other recorded cultural factors, including other language, and gypsy traveller children	AMBER	AMBER	Data regarding Welsh being the first language is collected via Pupil Level Annual School Census	This relates to pupils in the school system in Monmouthshire	

General Comments: Population Measures

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 recognise that the level of work required to remedy this has been beyond our capacity / resources within the current Play Sufficiency Assessment process and will require further work, coordinated by the Play Strategy Group, to identify a practical and economic way forward to remedy this.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 a number of playgrounds in isolated rural areas and it has developed MUGAs in some areas to address the needs of children living in rural areas but there are known gaps in provision	There are known gaps in provision where some communities have limited play provision.	Seek to gain a better understanding the local demand for and sufficiency of play opportunities
The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	There is one supervised play provision for Welsh language children – Clwb Carco ASC in Abergavenny (registered with CSSIW). There is also an ASC based at Ysgol Y Ffin in Caldicot but it is not a Welsh medium provision. Groundwork Wales' play sessions are offered bilingually	No specific 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		No separate provision exists to fulfil the play requirements of children from different cultural backgrounds	Adopting a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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>We operate an Extra Hands Scheme providing 1:1 support for children with a disability to enable them to attend After School Clubs and Holiday Clubs.</p> <p>The Council's play schemes are fully inclusive and we have employed support workers to provide access for children with disabilities. The new summer play model (sports camps and community play) developed for 2016 is designed to be inclusive for disabled children.</p>	<p>There is limited play provision for children with disabilities although the play requirements are understood.</p> <p>The supervised play provision for disabled children takes place mainly in the holiday periods and there are some local voluntary support groups.</p> <p>There is a demand for improved accessible play areas for disabled children that has been identified but cannot be fully met due to the lack of dedicated funding – the accessible play area at Bailey Park Abergavenny is well used and this is reflected in the response to the parent questionnaires in 2013. We have used Play Opportunity Grant to help increase provision.</p>	ensure the needs of children with disabilities and/or families with diverse needs are better supported 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 a wide range of resources to support inclusion as evidenced by extensive access audits.	Detailed information on this is not held about all projects provided by other agencies and/or the voluntary sector	
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 and practice is to support inclusive provision rather than separate provision for disabled children. However, the Council provides specific provision for young		

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>person with a learning difficulty or disability at the Platform Youth Centre in Usk and additional sessions elsewhere in the county in the holiday periods.</p> <p>In our new community play model our provider Torfaen Play Service will make specific separate provision for the highest tier of disabled children.</p>		
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 available	Detailed 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	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The adopted LDP Policy H8 is a criteria based policy for the assessment of proposals for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for two caravans and an amenity block for one family in the Usk area.</p>	The Council's Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment was submitted to the Welsh Government in February 2016. This provides a broad indication of need which will require future consideration, alongside associated play space provision.	
The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Monmouthshire has a Carers Strategy and there is young carers provision operating in the county delivered by Crossroads Care South East Wales.	Young carers are sometimes extremely difficult to identify, particularly those caring for a family member with substance misuse or mental health issues, or those who are living in an isolated or rural area.	
The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and	AMBER	AMBER	The Youth Service (MYS) staff are trained in aspects of LGBTQ+ and will ensure that young people from this community have access	Although the Council (through MYS) is aware of the requirements of LGBTQ+ children there is no separate	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
provided for			to provision and support where required.	database that identifies specific requirements.	
The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	AMBER	AMBER	The Authority 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 and will have to be fully compliant by 2016. All bus stops in the county have DDA compliant boarding platforms. Some buses have audio announcements and escorts are provided on SEN contracts to education establishments. 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 including road crossings	<p>All buses on service routes will be 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 big issue for all of these outcomes to be met. Reductions in funding streams from Welsh Government and withdrawal of some commercial routes by operators means that this is an ongoing challenge.</p>	

General Comments: 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 opportunities for playing?

We have identified the need to gain a better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities in our towns and rural areas - a process this data will contribute to. As noted in response to Matter A we recognise that the level of work

required to remedy this has been beyond our capacity / resources within the current Play Sufficiency Assessment process but it will be a priority action for the Play Strategy Group.

We have also identified 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 as a further key theme.

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

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 <i>Monmouthshire Open Space Study (2008)</i> identifies standards of provision for public recreation, open space including equipped / designated play space and informal /casual play space. The resulting information is mapped.		Reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
					spaces
The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	AMBER	GREEN	The Open Space Study also identified amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace within all of the County's main settlements. The <i>Monmouthshire Greenspace Study (2010)</i> extends the work of the Open Space Study to provide a full survey of the adequacy of greenspace provision in the County, following as far as possible the toolkit methodology developed by CCW. An analysis of greenspace provision within each settlement area is provided in the study which extends to 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, but not at 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 currently rely on the NPFA minimum standards that are considered to be appropriate and represent the Council's minimum standards sought across the county	We have not yet developed our own Open Space Standard as recommended in national planning policy	
The Local Authority undertakes and actions Play	AMBER	AMBER	Ad hoc inspections are undertaken with a view to		

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Space assessments which include actions to make public space clear from hazards			removing hazards and maintaining a safe environment for use by children but no formal assessments are in place		
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 any assessment of brownfield sites for their play potential (however the number of such sites is limited)	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The local authority keeps an up to date record of sites in its ownership	Some play space is owned by other parties – although we know about these sites and where they are we do not keep a full up to date record	Reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces
The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	There is no formal assessment of play value on all sites although the Council is aware of some areas lacking play value as a result of community feedback and regular inspections		
The Local Authority	AMBER	AMBER	The authority has undertaken access audits at many sites,	Some of the existing play spaces have not had proper	

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety			especially those play spaces that have been upgraded	access audits undertaken	
The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	GREEN	The Council designs & installs play areas for new developments to meet National and European standards.		
The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	AMBER	AMBER	Some but not all play spaces have been assessed for usage & improvements.	Not all sites have been assessed	
The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	AMBER	GREEN	Smoke free signage, designed by children has been installed on all playgrounds in Council ownership.		
The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	The authority has removed the majority of "no ball game" signs but a small number still remain	Some "No ball game" signs still exist on a number of County Council sites and some sites operated by other providers	
The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	RED	RED		No Play Priority or similar signs have been erected	
The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to	AMBER	GREEN	The Council assesses the importance of children's play in the cases where disposal decisions are made about playing		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
children’s play when any disposal decisions are made			fields – this is also addressed in Equality Impact Assessments		
The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	AMBER	AMBER	There have been very limited cases of the Council disposing of playing fields. Where this has taken place in Govilon & Caldicot consultation has taken place to obtain the views of families		

General Comments: Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments (OSAs) and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

The Open Space Study also identified amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace within all of the County’s main settlements. The Monmouthshire Greenspace Study (2010) extends the work of the Open Space Study to provide a full survey of the adequacy of greenspace provision in the County, following as far as possible the toolkit methodology developed by CCW. An analysis of greenspace provision within each settlement area is provided in the study which extends to areas used for informal play. An action to reviewing our overall approach on the basis of this and related information is set out below.

Other Comments on Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

Through the PSA process we have identified the desirability of reviewing our 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 the wider “green infrastructure” approach which the Council has adopted (as set out in our Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance).

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

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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	GREEN	The Family Information Service keeps an up to date record of supervised play settings		To develop the community play framework for open access play provision
The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The Council has operated five inclusive play schemes during the school summer holidays and has up to date evidenced feedback from children and parents. A new model for community play provision is being developed for summer 2016	The playschemes are only held over a four week period during the school summer holidays.	
The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory	AMBER	RED	In partnership with Three Counties Community Play, we supported the creation of community led open access play provision in identified wards	Funding for Three Counties Play has come to an end in and, as a result, this could have a negative impact on rich, community led play	

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Guidance			deprived of play opportunities	environments. Our new community play model is intended to help address this.	
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	The summer play schemes have been registered with the CSSIW and meet the National Minimum Standards. The new community play model will not require registration (except that our provider Torfaen Play Service will register the specific provision for the highest tier of disabled children) but will meet national minimum standards.		
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	The new community play model (which will involve commissioning an external provider, Torfaen Play Service) will not require registration but will meet national minimum standards.		
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	All Groundwork Wales sessions are delivered by qualified play workers in line with CSSIW regulations		
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 priorities quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver	AMBER	AMBER	The Council rarely commissions the private sector to deliver activities for children but in those cases where it has done this (e.g. sports courses, etc.) quality		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
recreational activities for children.			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 Council premises free of charge but it does provide outdoor space free of charge for play provision e.g. MCC has supported Groundwork Wales by allowing access on land for open access funded play sessions, and some of its leased premises also provide space free of charge.		

Structured recreational activities for children

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture	AMBER	AMBER	<p>We continue to work closely with communities, partners and schools to deliver opportunities identified through the Sport Wales School Sport Survey 2015.</p> <p>We will continue to invest in young leadership programmes and training to give young people the opportunity to create sustainable play, sport and physical activities.</p> <p>We will continue to work with our pre-school and after school</p>	The lack of an arts development role inhibits opportunities for children and young person’s involvement – there is potential to remedy this through the new delivery model planned for cultural services	To identify how the alternative delivery model planned for leisure, cultural and youth services may positively contribute to improving access to play opportunities.

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			providers to identify training and support to be able to offer physical literacy opportunities for our young people.		
The local “Creating an Active Wales” plan is increasing play and recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	Three targets within C&YP section of plan: 1) Increase opportunities for family swimming sessions, particularly for under 5's. 2) Promotion of existing & new activities through media and FIS website. 3) Consult with families on what matters.		
Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	GREEN	GREEN	Our plan identifies projects to increase opportunities for engagement in sport and physical recreation. Child specific projects emphasis includes providing the skills and confidence from an early age to be physically literate.	The emphasis for ‘young people’ engagement and delivery of programmes is mainly through core funding and supporting school based programmes (Dragon multi skills and sport & 5x60).	
The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	Through Dragon multi skills & sport programmes we are focussing on the physical competency of a child so that they can develop the appropriate skills at the appropriate stage of their physical development, which can be transferred across sport.	Predominantly delivered through school programmes at ages 7-11 years. Need to develop more community programmes and engagement, e.g. community sport clubs	
The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	Not Included	AMBER	The Council’s Museum Service (Monmouth Museum, Abergavenny Castle & Chepstow Museum) and its cultural attractions (Caldicot Castle, Shire Hall Monmouth and Old Station Tintern) all provide a variety of opportunities for recreational activities for children.	The lack of an arts development role inhibits opportunities for children and young person’s involvement – there is potential to remedy this through the new delivery model planned for cultural services	

			Individual community arts events also make provision e.g. The Wye Valley River Festival.		
The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association	AMBER	GREEN	The LA youth service provides regular opportunities for young people aged 11+ to engage in leisure and recreational activities through youth centres; village halls and outreach pop-up sessions. These opportunities are available 50 weeks of the year.		

General Comments: 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?

How has provision that is not part of the CSA 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, as well as to monitor the quality of play provision provided and to provide training, where required, to enhance this provision.

Alongside the PSA process the Council has undertaken a review of its own provision of supervised summer play, informed by the independent review carried out by Torfaen Play Service. As a result a key theme of the play action plan is to work with partners to develop the community play framework for open access play provision; including assessing the impact of the changes proposed for staffed play provision in Summer 2016; seeking to develop the model and engage new partner e.g. the environmental sector and “wild play” and exploring the potential for further inclusive community based provision including at other times of the year.

The Council is also considering an alternative delivery model planned for leisure, cultural and youth services and a further action will be to identify how that may positively contribute to improving access to play opportunities.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 by the FIS every year	Relies on information being readily available via the census or Welsh Government	To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision; To develop the community play framework for 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 by the FIS every year	Relies on information being readily available via the census or Welsh Government	
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 Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014 and age breakdowns	The information is not readily available and used as a basis to plan provision of play opportunities	
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	AMBER	AMBER	Data bases are kept in separate service areas, e.g. Social Services, Education, Leisure Services in relation to play provision		

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	AMBER	AMBER	The FIS keeps information on all play activities being run whether or not there is a cost	The information depends on play providers returning annual update forms and choosing to advertise with the FIS	
The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	AMBER	AMBER	The FIS keeps information on premises that can be used for play on the 'Children's Entertainment' section on the FIS website	This information is only updated on an annual basis and may not be a full list of what is available in Monmouthshire as it is dependent on providers informing the FIS in the first instance.	
The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	AMBER	AMBER	Monmouthshire Early Years provide an Out of School Childcare grant for additional support at holiday clubs and after school clubs in Monmouthshire.	There is a limited budget for this provision and it is only available to children with additional needs. The grant funds a 1:1 worker and does not subsidise the place for the child.	
The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	AMBER	AMBER	We have provided free transport to the Caldicot Playscheme from outlying areas, funded by Community Council grant, but this does not form part of the new community play model	Subsidised transport is not available on a county wide basis – it has been trialled in some areas but was discontinued due to lack of take up	

General Comments: Charge for play provision

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

The Family Information Service (FIS) provides easily accessible information as to play opportunities, although we recognise that it is a partial view as it depends on play providers returning annual update forms and choosing to advertise with the FIS. We have identified a theme for the play action plan as enhancing our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision.

The theme to work with partners to develop the community play framework for open access play provision will also extend access to low cost provision.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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	To improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to
The Local Authority has	AMBER	AMBER	Completed school travel plans that	Safe Routes to Schools, Safe	

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<p>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</p>			<p>informed former Safe Routes to Schools/current Safe Routes in Communities projects have monitoring requirements to assess impact of such interventions. Similarly, MCC's road safety programme over the years has contributed to regional & national data collection on road safety performance</p>	<p>Routes in Communities & general Road Safety Schemes produced benefits & impacts much wider than allowing children to play, so it may be difficult to attribute benefits specifically to play for children. Again not all communities have benefited from the above funding streams, so some benefits not accrued in parts of county. Draft speed management policy being developed which may cover this aspect</p>	<p>play for children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to play.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>As above, with Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes in Communities and Road Safety Schemes</p>	<p>Not all county is covered, and some routes require involvement with other agencies, such as South Wales Trunk Road Agency. (For example, A4042 Goytre, A48 Chepstow, A40 Abergavenny, A40 Monmouth). Route monitoring guidance by WG shortly to be introduced and will evidence this statement</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>As above, with Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes in Communities and Road Safety Schemes</p>	<p>Focus on safe routes to schools and safe routes in communities schemes has largely focused on routes to key generators of traffic, i.e. schools, shops, and not covered in equal measure needs for more leisure based activities. Active Travel will help to address this initiative</p>	
<p>There is potential for the Local Authority to</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>As above, with Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes in Communities and Road</p>	<p>Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes in Communities &</p>	

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take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities			Safety Schemes	general Road Safety Schemes produced benefits & impacts much wider than allowing children to play, so may be difficult to attribute benefits - again not all communities have benefited from the above funding streams, so some benefits not accrued. Again Active Travel plus Speed Management Policy will help address this	
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 provided at number of schools in county.	Would need funding to continue to allow for provision at all primary school levels.	
The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	GREEN	Kerbcraft Training provided across the county	Would need funding to continue to allow for provision at all primary school levels.	
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	Well defined procedures for Street Closures and known by local communities		
The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for</i>	AMBER	GREEN	All new developments are considered under the Manual for Streets and		

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Streets when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			reference to parking standards. Noting that some highway within the county is responsibility of South Wales Trunk Road Agency who tend to refer to 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	AMBER	GREEN	All new developments are considered under the Manual for Streets, Active Travel Design Guidance, MCC LDP adopted guidelines, Sustrans Greenway, DfT Local Transport Notes etc. Noting that some highway within the county is responsibility of South Wales Trunk Road Agency which tends to refer to 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	AMBER	STATUS	Accident data looks at all age groups and road user types. MCC work jointly with Gwent Police and neighbouring LAs to identify and look to address known accident sites		
The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes in Communities Scheme	Some decisions regarding public transport planning & expenditure are made at regional level, and as with use of road accident data prioritisation methodology focuses on spatial benefits (around economic & social activities) less towards leisure activities	

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.

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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)	AMBER	AMBER	Information about play opportunities is included the local authority’s website; the “visit Monmouthshire” website and the Family Information Service (FIS) website. This provides comprehensive information on play provision, clubs etc. but does not include information on play areas.	There is no single “one stop shop” website for families to access the full range of information about play opportunities in the county.	To engage with children and young people and parents to better identify the limiting factors / barriers to access play opportunities and use this information to help inform our future approach to information and publicity.
The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	AMBER	AMBER	This information is available on a service by service basis and some limited joint publicity is produced for the summer holiday activities	The information is not easy to find for parents looking for information on play opportunities not linked to a specific service	
The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	AMBER	AMBER	We support and publicise events 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. MCC has supported and helped publicise events delivered by	There is no protocol or format available at the moment to produce a comprehensive range of information on children’s play. The FIS flyer only includes activities that they are aware off; it relies on services informing them when they hold events.	

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			Groundwork Wales for children and families.		
The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	RED	RED	MCC has supported and helped publicise information about workshops delivered by Groundwork Wales which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	We do not systematically publish or publicise such information	
The Local Authority publicises helpful hints and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	Information about the importance of play is included on the Parenting Tips section of the Family Information Service website	The information available and its promotion is limited.	
The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	AMBER	AMBER	There is some on site signposting at the four skate parks.	On site signposting is not done on a consistent or regular basis to promote play	
The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area	AMBER	AMBER	We do have effective engagement with the media and promote positive portrayals as and when they occur, such as media coverage of the new Gilwern Heaven Scent Garden.	This is not done as part of a planned process	

General Comments: 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 deliver improved safety and new opportunities for active travel (walking and cycling), including Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes in Communities, general road safety measures, including appropriate training and the assessment of new development proposals. However we recognise that we need to improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to play.

General Comments: Information, publicity, events

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

There is positive information available to support access to play, but we recognise that this is spread across a number of platforms and does not include information on play areas. We have identified a desire to engage with children and young people and parents to better identify the limiting factors / barriers to access play opportunities and we plan to use this information to help 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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, play management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	AMBER	AMBER	The Council has employed play workers to work on the play schemes and support workers to provide support for children with disabilities – both of these are on a temporary basis during school holiday periods.	The Council does not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within its workforce. Many of the of play opportunities in the county are delivered by other agencies and by the voluntary sector and with the new community play model for 2016 this trend is likely to increase in the future through a commissioning approach.	To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce; To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;
The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	Youth Service provides core and mandatory training for the youth provisions with which it is involved – this includes clubs run by paid workers & by volunteers. Three Counties Play also provided a variety of training both accredited and non-accredited to align the	The new community play model will work with our provider Torfaen Play Service to provide appropriate training for staff and volunteers delivering the scheme, utilising Torfaen Play's existing model.	

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			community provisions with the National Minimum standards for open access play (no longer in place).		
The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive	RED	RED		There is no provision or resources to do this within the Local Authority	
The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	RED	RED		The Council does not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within its workforce.	
The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	AMBER	Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs (CPCCKC) delivers business health checks and committee skills in voluntary management committees. Three Counties Community Play also provided a variety of training both accredited and non-accredited to align the community provisions with the National Minimum standards for open access play (no longer in place).	This provision whilst valuable only covers a proportion of community groups, parents and volunteers. The new community play model (commissioned via Torfaen Play Service) will provide accredited training for volunteers.	
The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary	RED	RED		The Local Authority hasn't undertaken such an analysis	
The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	RED	RED		Staff development budgets are devolved to individual services but there is no ring fenced budget for play	

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Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Council works closely with CPCKC to promote CPD to play workers, also providing underpinning knowledge courses, e.g. food hygiene, health & safety, child protection.</p> <p>Three Counties Community Play also provided a variety of training both accredited and non-accredited to align the community provisions with the National Minimum standards for open access play (no longer in place).</p>	<p>The new community play model (commissioned via Torfaen Play Service) will provide accredited training for summer play workers.</p> <p>This provision whilst valuable does not cover all play workers in the area and cannot be classed as comprehensive</p>	
There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Council works closely with CPCKC to promote CPD to play workers, also providing underpinning knowledge courses, e.g. food hygiene, health & safety, child protection.</p> <p>Three Counties Community Play also provided a variety of training both accredited and non-accredited to align the community provisions with the National Minimum standards for open access play (no longer in place).</p>	This provision whilst valuable does not cover all play workers in the area and cannot be classed as comprehensive	
Training is available for volunteers and parents to	AMBER	AMBER	Three Counties Community Play and Monmouthshire Youth	Funding for Three Counties Play has come to an end and,	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
develop their knowledge on skills in play work			Service provided training to volunteers and parents for them to develop their knowledge & skills in playwork.	as a result, this could have a negative impact availability	
Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	AMBER	AMBER	Limited awareness raising on the importance of play and the need to provide for improved play opportunities has been provided and the review of the summer play schemes and review of the PSA has provided an opportunity undertake awareness raising with Town and Community Councils and the Authority's Select Committee and Cabinet.	Comprehensive programme required.	

General Comments 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?

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)?

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

The Council has identified a lead service and officer for play (Tourism Leisure and Culture Service and the Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager) and reviewed and confirmed its arrangements to coordinate delivery, via its Play Strategy Group and monitoring to the Local Service Board's Programme Board.

We do not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within our workforce. Many of the play opportunities in the

county are delivered by other agencies and by the voluntary sector. With the new community play model for 2016 this trend is likely to increase in the future through a commissioning approach. We recognise that our understanding of the wider play workforce is not comprehensive and we will prioritise our approach through building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce. However limited resources mean that difficult decisions will need to be made as to our priorities.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage youth groups, school councils, school governing bodies, community groups and other relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.	AMBER	RED	The Council supported Three Counties Community Play in its work with local communities to enhance local play opportunities.	Funding for Three Counties Play came to an end and, as a result, this has had a negative impact on enhancing local play opportunities	To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;
The Local Authority promotes community engagement in: - making space available and	AMBER	RED	The Council supported Three Counties Community Play to consult and engage with local communities through stay and	Funding for Three Counties Play came to an end and, as a result, this has had a negative impact on engagement	

suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play.			play sessions, play networks, cross county events and play events both locally and regionally. We promote positive attitudes towards play and have provided bespoke training on the importance of play on children and young people.		
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General Comments 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 a close working relationship with the Town & Community Councils and the voluntary sector in Monmouthshire in relation to play opportunities – the Town/Community Councils are major contributors to the play schemes and other play provisions;
- Three Counties Community Play has engaged with local communities across Monmouthshire to help set up open access play provisions but this provision has now stopped with the end of funding;
- Clybiau Plant Cymru has engaged with a significant number of the county’s Primary Schools to set up provisions, mainly after school/holiday clubs;
- Consultation takes place in respect of improvements to play facilities e.g. the improvement of designated play spaces.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is a named person on the Local Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Single Integrated Plan	AMBER	AMBER	Play is identified as a noted above and the Single Integrated Plan includes action to ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities. The Play Strategy Group’s membership and terms of reference were reviewed in January 2015 by the Single Integrated Plan Performance Group to ensure a robust link to the plan, clarity of role and reporting. The Play Strategy Group is recognised as one of the key partnerships feeding in to the 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.	There is no named person within on the Local Service Board who champions children’s play specifically.	Identify a named person on the Local Service Board / Public Service Board

Education and schools					
Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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	GREEN	GREEN	Outdoor areas of schools, particularly the new primary schools built as part of the primary review, offer excellent environments with a rich and varied provision for children to play		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
Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	AMBER	GREEN	All schools provide access to play during break and lunch times using a range of equipment and playground markings.		
Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	There are play settings on Primary School sites throughout the county & the four secondary sites are dual use		
Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	AMBER	AMBER	The vast majority of schools encourage children to cycle to school. However there are a number of schools in rural areas where cycling would not be a feasible option for many children	Schools do participate in the annual “Walk to School” week but no data is currently held on how many schools encourage children to walk to school	
The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	AMBER	GREEN	The MCC Food and Fitness Policy has been adopted by 32 / 35 schools in Monmouthshire. This policy has been presented and ratified by individual school Governing Bodies.		

Town and Country Planning

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The adopted LDP contains Policy CRF2 requiring provision of open space in accordance with the Council's adopted standards, including 0.8 hectares children's playing space (0.3 hectares equipped, 0.5 hectares casual) per 1,000 population.</p> <p>The Adopted <i>Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</i> recognises increasing play opportunities as a benefit and a key design consideration.</p>	The LDP refers to the use of SPG on financial contributions for recreational open space and allotment needs. However, it is considered that provision is generally in accordance with current practice/policy so preparation of this SPG has not been accorded high priority.	Reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces

Traffic and Transport

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 LTP proposed the development of Active Travel Networks in 7 designated settlements, as per Active Travel Design Guidance the development of future network will consider implications of play sufficiency assessments [<i>The LTP</i>		To improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<i>guidance made no reference to PSAs, the ATA Design Guidance states that “The network plans and their associated programmes of works therefore need to be integrated with wider strategic plans of the authority and external organisations. These plans might include ... play sufficiency assessments”]</i>		play for children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to 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 LTP was assessed against equality impact. The Active Travel Network Plans will be developed according to the relevant Design Guidance which refers to legal procedures including Equality Impact Assessments. Any scheme will need to consider needs in its design.		

Health and Wellbeing

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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<p>The Local Authority plans and agenda to promote health and well-being recognise the importance of play for children’s and families’ physical health and well-being</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Local Authority health and well-being plans and agenda recognise the importance of play for the physical and emotional health and well-being of children and families including the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire Strategy which includes to support children and young people to live active lives, and become active adults.</p>	<p>Although the value and importance of play is recognised there is a lack of resources currently to actively promote play as an important factor in the health and well-being of children and families</p>	<p>Identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group</p>
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Child Poverty

<p>Criteria</p>	<p>RAG Status 2013</p>	<p>RAG Status 2016</p>	<p>Evidence to support strengths</p>	<p>Shortfalls</p>	<p>Identified Actions for action Plan</p>
<p>The Local Authority’s tackling poverty agenda and plans recognise the importance of ensuring that play opportunities are available to all families regardless of their income.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The Local Authority’s tackling poverty agenda is embedded within the partnership strategic planning process, the Single Integrated Plan and initiatives such as the Flying Start and Families First programmes. For example, the Families First Programme funds subsidised places for pre-school play and after school/holiday club play for low income families. Community play provision around the county also ensures play provision regardless of income.</p>		<p>Maintaining integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group; Adopting a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and ensure families with diverse needs are better supported to access play opportunities</p>

Early Years/Childcare

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 Early Years Development Policy deals predominantly with Early Education and promotes the importance of play within education. The fundamental principle of the Foundation Phase Framework is that learning should be active / play based and carried out both indoors and outdoors. It states in Monmouthshire's Service Specification Agreement with Approved Early Education Providers that all children must have access to a stimulating, safe and secure outdoor learning environment during every session.		Maintaining integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group;
The Childcare Strategy offers guidance to ensure local childcare providers understand the importance of and provide a rich play environment as a routine part of the care they provide	AMBER	AMBER	Monmouthshire has not had a Childcare Strategy document for many years, nevertheless the importance of play is recognised and training and financial support has been put into play settings to improve the quality of this provision. The Out of School Childcare Grant has been utilised to fill any gaps in the market and to improve quality of existing provision.		

Family policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Family Information Service provides family support information via telephone, email, social media, outreach and on the FIS website. There is a parenting advice section which includes information such as 'the benefits of play' 'playing outside' and 'playing outside'.</p> <p>The FIS advertises all forms of play including after school clubs, play schemes, leisure activities, soft play centres and various organised play events and includes as much detail as possible to ensure parents are well informed.</p> <p>The Acorn Project/Flying Start provides up to date information based around Language and Play principles and shares these messages with parents the project works with in groups and one to one at home.</p>	<p>The FIS continues to gather information on Family Support but the capacity of the FIS is limited.</p>	<p>To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision</p>

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	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 have included a range of intergenerational activities.		Maintaining integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group;
There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages	AMBER	AMBER	Family Learning activities have included activities for children of different ages. Groundwork Wales has engaged with parents, family members and community groups.		

Community Development

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding the rights of children to play within their communities	RED	GREEN	The Single Integrated Plan makes a clear statement recognising 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 and that play should be capable of being enjoyed by		Maintaining integration with the Single Integrated Plan through the Play Strategy Group and reporting via the LSB's Performance Board;

			all children irrespective of their social or cultural background or the ability of their parents to pay for the opportunity to participate.		
The Community Strategy supports communities to provide play opportunities for their children	RED	GREEN	The Single Integrated Plan includes action to ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities		
The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding how providing play opportunities contributes to community cohesion	RED	STATUS	The Single Integrated Plan recognises that 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.		

Community Safety

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Community Safety Strategy makes a clear statement which recognises the rights of children to play in their communities	Not Included	STATUS	The Community Safety Strategy has been replaced by the Single Integrated Plan which recognises the right to play (as above)		Maintaining integration with the Single Integrated Plan through the Play Strategy Group and reporting via the LSB's Performance
The Community Safety Strategy includes actions which provide a safe	RED	STATUS	The Community Safety Strategy has been replaced by the Single Integrated Plan		

environment for children to play in their communities			which recognises action required to ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities (as above)		Board;
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Health and Safety

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge	AMBER	AMBER	This is not specifically recognised in the Council's main health and safety policy but is covered in the Council's Trips & Visits Policy under "hazardous pursuits" and "adventurous activities" (which are under current review)		To improve our information base to better understand if the barriers to play opportunities include health & safety & 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 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.		

General Comments: Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

- Outdoor areas of schools, particularly the new primary schools built as part of the primary review, offer excellent environments with a rich and varied provision for children to play
- The MCC Food and Fitness Policy has been adopted by 32 / 35 schools in Monmouthshire. This policy has been presented and ratified by individual school Governing Bodies.
- The Adopted Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) recognises increasing play opportunities as a benefit and a key design consideration.
- The Council's Local Transport Plan proposed the development of Active Travel Networks in 7 designated settlements, as per Active Travel Design Guidance the development of future network will consider implications of play sufficiency assessments
- The Family Information Service provides family support information via telephone, email, social media, outreach and on the FIS website. There is a parenting advice section which includes information such as 'the benefits of play' 'playing outside' and 'playing outside'.

Conclusion

The Council's view is that fewer, focussed and more integrated themes / actions are more likely to achieve progress especially in times of limited resources, and better reflects the Sustainable Development principles and Well-being goals.

The proposed themes / key actions for the 2016/17 action plan are as follows:

Space for play - The desirability of reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces; including fully assessing the condition of and demand for existing provision and identifying new opportunities; the application of play space standards / developer contributions; the potential for multi-use spaces / natural play etc. through integration of a wider “green infrastructure” approach.

Supervised provision – Working with partners to develop the recently approved community play framework for open access play provision; including assessing the impact of the changes in staffed play provision in Summer 2016; seeking to develop the model and engage new partner e.g. the environmental sector and “wild play”; and exploring the potential for further inclusive community based provision including at other times of the year.

Providing for diverse needs – Adopting a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and ensure the needs of children with disabilities and/or families with diverse needs are better supported to access play opportunities.

Policy Integration – Supporting the Play Strategy Group, which now has new terms of reference 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, the potential synergies with the alternative delivery model planned for leisure, cultural and youth services e.g. relating to culture and arts. The SIP Performance Group will continue to oversee links and clarity around the PSA and action plan delivery.

Engagement and Information – Recognising that the existing information base is not adequate to fully understand the demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities and that the level of work required to remedy this has 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. The limited additional consultation that has been possible to support the PSA review suggests that attitudes to play, both of parents

and other adults are identified by children as one of the limiting factors to their play opportunities and further engagement with children and young people can explore this further.

This last action is central to the foregoing actions - whilst there is significant goodwill about making links to other policy areas the lack of a full understanding of local demand and opportunities is constraining making these real.

Way forward

The identified themes for action are intended to be long term and whilst they will be kept under review as part of the annual action plan prices it is envisaged they will guide the authority's actions at least until the next 3 year review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Action Plan contains a realistic assessment of what is achievable in the first year of that period given the available resources.

The mechanism for delivery will be the Play Strategy Group, as described above.

Signed: Matthew Lewis

Date: 30 March 2016

Play Sufficiency Action Plan



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FINAL DRAFT VERSION (FOR MCC CABINET DECISION 13 APRIL 2016)

Name of Local Authority:	Monmouthshire County Council
Name of responsible officer:	Matthew Lewis
Job title:	Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager
Date of completion:	30 March 2016



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

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017

(Funding source: funding from Local Authority own budgets and to be included in the Single Integrated Plan).

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Statutory Guidance-policy framework	Approve PSA and 2016/17 Play Action Plan Maintain and review the Play Action Plan	Approval by Cabinet Complete a rolling review of the Action Plan for 17/18 including report to CYP Select / Cabinet	13 April 2016 by 31 March 2017	GI & Countryside Manager; Community Infrastructure Coordinator with Play Strategy Group	Existing core staff funding
Matter A: Population	Using available data to contribute to better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities	To identify a practical and economic way forward; 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.	by 31 March 2017	Play Strategy Group	Existing core staff funding / investigate funding sources
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	Seek to gain a better understanding of the local demand for and sufficiency of play opportunities	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	Ongoing; aim to inform the development of the community play model in 2017	Play Strategy Group (Tourism Leisure and Culture; Children Services; Youth Service etc.)	Existing core staff funding / funding from Town & Community Councils / investigate funding sources

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Matter C: Space available for children to play	Reviewing our 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 the wider “green infrastructure” approach (as set out in our Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance).	Detailed timescale and milestones to be developed by Summer 2016	Play Strategy Group (Green Infrastructure & Countryside; Operations; Planning; Sports Development; Community Infrastructure)	Existing core staff funding
Matter D: Supervised provision	To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	To deliver the 2016 open access summer play scheme (including sports camps and community play schemes) To identify how the alternative delivery model planned for leisure, cultural and youth services may positively contribute to improving access to play opportunities	By Summer 2016 (July/August) By April 2017	Tourism, Leisure & Culture Service (and Torfaen Play Service as contracted provider) Alternative Delivery Model team / Play Strategy Group	Families First Grant / Community & Town Council funding (£60-£70K) Existing core staff funding
Matter E: Charges for play provision	To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision; To develop the community play framework for open access play provision	As Matter A above As Matter D above			
Matter F: Access to space/provision	To improve our information base to fully integrate	To engage with children and young people and parents to better identify			

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
	these measures and to better understand the local barriers to play for children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to play.	the limiting factors / barriers to access play opportunities and use this information to help inform our future approach to information and publicity (to form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above)			
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce; To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	To form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above As Matter D above			
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	As Matter D above			
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	Identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group	Identify a named person on the Local Service Board / Public Service Board; 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; Maintaining integration with the Single	by 31 March 2017 Ongoing Ongoing	Play Strategy Group / GI & Countryside Manager	

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
		<p>Integrated Plan through the Play Strategy Group and reporting via the LSB's Performance Board;</p> <p>To improve our information base to better understand if the barriers to play include health & safety & insurance issues (to form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above)</p>			