

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2017-22 |
| MEETING: | Individual Cabinet Member Decision |
| DATE: | WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2017 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | Countywide |

NON-PUBLICATION

(Insert appropriate non publication paragraph if necessary)

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform Members of the current situation regarding childcare in Monmouthshire.
- 1.2 To fulfil our statutory duty to complete a detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) every five years.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the CSA 2017-22 and submit it to the Welsh Government.
- 2.2 To utilise existing resources and grant funding to address the gaps highlighted through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and develop additional childcare, where necessary, in line with the Action Plan.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and a duty to carry out childcare sufficiency assessments every five years.
- 3.2 Overall, the quality and location of childcare in Monmouthshire is considered to be at least good and many settings offer excellent childcare provision.
- 3.3 There are generally sufficient childcare places available in all areas of Monmouthshire to meet the current demand.
- 3.4 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-22 has highlighted some significant gaps in the childcare market that need to be addressed.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 There are not sufficient Welsh medium childcare places in Monmouthshire.
- 4.2 Consultation responses from parents and stakeholders have highlighted the need for extended hours of childcare to meet the needs of working parents, as there is currently a lack of childcare available during atypical work hours such as before 8am, after 6pm, overnight and at weekends.
- 4.3 There needs to be an increase in the number and range of childcare services available during school holidays.
- 4.4 The CSA has highlighted gaps in relation to registered crèche facilities, open access play and nannies.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The Welsh Government provide the Local Authority with an Out of School Childcare Grant which can be used to support and develop Out of School Childcare Provision, to raise the quality of childcare provision and to meet any gaps highlighted by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. The indicative grant allocation for April 2017 – March 2018 is £70,785.
- 5.2 The existing Early Years Childcare budget is also used to employ a Childcare Development Worker to provide business support and to facilitate training for childcare settings.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development Checklist is attached as part of the Future Generations Evaluation.
- 6.2 The main positive impact of the CSA is ensuring we are able to meet our statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents. This, in turn, will contribute to the wellbeing goals of creating a prosperous and more equal Wales with cohesive communities and a thriving Welsh language.

7. CONSULTEES:

- 7.1 Childcare Providers and Parents completed an online questionnaire to establish the supply and demand for childcare.

- 7.2 Consultation took place with relevant stakeholders such as Family Information Service, umbrella organisations, schools, neighbouring local authorities and other departments.
- 7.3 Focus groups took place with children currently attending childcare provision.
- 7.4 All comments received through consultation have been incorporated within the final report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- 8.1 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-22 and annexes 1-14.

9. AUTHOR:

Sue Hall, Early Years Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644461

E-mail: susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk