

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 16TH DECEMBER, 2019

REFERENCE FROM HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 15TH OCTOBER 2019

“ PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESMENT AND ACTION PLAN (DEH) –

The Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Transport, presented the report to advise the Committee that the Council had met the duties placed upon it by Welsh Government in relation to undertaken a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) and producing an accompanying Action Plan, in accordance with the Children’s and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.

The PSA, Play Action Plan and Executive Summary were attached at Appendix A to the report.

The Assessment highlighted that:

Whilst financial resources were limited, the Local Authority was meeting its duty of providing sufficient play opportunities. There had been progress made in a number of Matter areas since the previous PSA in 2016, which was positively impacting on the provision of quality play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.

There had been a move forward in relation to partnership working with increased pooling of resources. There was improved communication across internal departments and with external partners, and an increased desire and understanding for the need to work together more. However there were still pockets of developments taking place on their own internally within the Council so there were still further opportunities for joined up working to maximise the limited resources available.

There had been an investment in funding to increase access to fixed play equipment across the Vale, with areas in the rural Vale also benefitting from the funding. These had been welcomed by the communities affected, however it had also caused negative comments to be received from those communities who had not benefited from this funding and who felt their areas were also in need of upgrading.

There had been increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to access play opportunities during school holidays through the Families First Holiday Club and the Teenscheme project, in addition to increased opportunities to access play through the medium of Welsh.

There was a growing passion and understanding of the benefits of play amongst a number of internal and external partners, who were committed to the further

development of play opportunities for children and young people. It was essential to ensure that the Council used these individuals as campaigners for play when they were at their various networks and meetings.

There had been increased awareness and interest amongst non-play professionals regarding the indirect impact they had on a child's ability to play e.g. Traffic Management Engineers and Planning professionals.

The area that had seen the most positive change was within "Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce" with increased access to appropriate play work training.

Where opportunities had emerged to secure additional funding for play, such as the monies allocated from Welsh Government, this funding had been welcomed and appropriately used to positively impact on play.

There had been progress with moving away from the assumption that there was a need for fixed play equipment / play area to be located near every child in order for them to experience quality play. The play survey highlighted that there was an appreciation of the good natural environment in the Vale such as open spaces, woodlands and beaches in enabling children to experience play in its widest form. However it would continue to be a priority to promote the availability of no cost play within the Vale.

In conclusion, the Officer advised that there was a desire to increase opportunities, however a lack of resources meant that there were only limited people available to develop the area of work. The identification of long term funding continued to be an issue for both internal and external partners with limited funding available for developing play opportunities in the Vale. This not only impacted on programme delivery but also on developing staffing infrastructure. This limited strategic planning and continued to prove time consuming.

A Member then noted that it was pleasing to see the NHS commenting on the health and wellbeing of young people however, there did not seem to be the same level of focus for the older generation. In response, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Transport advised that new services would be in place in the near future for older individuals and that a report on the matter would be brought to Committee in the near future.

The Vice-Chairman then noted that the efforts that members of staff were putting into sourcing available funding seemed to be worthwhile and was generating significant amounts, to which, the Officer added that it was also a significant draw on staff time which could be frustrating for staff members who would much rather dedicate their time to play activity.

The Chairman then referred to paragraph 4.2 of the officer's report which set out that a few years ago the authority allocated £30,000 towards the development of play opportunities and enquired as to how much of the allocated funds remained. In response, the Officer advised that none of the allocated funds remained due to the fact that there was a small timeframe in which the authority had to spend the money

and the funds had to be spent on revenue. The Officer then wished to add that the Council had asked Welsh Government if it would be possible to receive funding earlier within the calendar year e.g. April which would significantly help officers to provide the Council's comprehensive summer schemes.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Play Sufficiency Assessment, Play Action Plan 2019 and Executive Summary be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan be endorsed for formal adoption by Cabinet.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) To ensure that the Council continues to meet its duties as set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which places a duty on Local Authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.”

Attached at Appendix A – Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 15th October, 2019

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 15 October 2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Play Sufficiency Assessment & Action Plan
Purpose of Report:	To advise the committee that the Council has met the duties placed upon it by Welsh Government in relation to undertaking a Play Sufficiency Assessment and producing an accompanying Action Plan, in accordance with the Children's & Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
Report Owner:	Karen Davies - Principal Healthy Living Officer
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Member, Leisure... Principal Healthy Living Officer Legal Services, Committee Reports Environment & Housing Accountant Operational Manager, Accountancy
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for executive decision by cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report seeks endorsement of the Play Sufficiency Assessment, Play Action Plan and Executive Summary completed in 2019. • The documents have been completed to continue to meet the Council's duties as set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area. • Due to the limited financial resources available for play, the action plan mainly takes into account low cost / no cost actions and encourages collaborative working. • The Play Sufficiency Executive Summary document provides an overview of the key findings of the assessment and an overview of the actions for 2019 - 2021. 	

Recommendations

- 1.** That the Scrutiny Committee reviews the Play Sufficiency Assessment, Play Action Plan 2019 and Executive Summary.
- 2.** That the views of this Scrutiny Committee are considered by Cabinet prior to formal adoption of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. and 2.

To ensure that the Council continues to meet its duties as set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.

1. Background

- 1.1** Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. They have an aim of creating a play friendly Wales and wish to create an environment in Wales where children have positive opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time.
- 1.2** To achieve a play friendly Wales, in 2012 Welsh Government placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area, so far as reasonably practicable and in accordance with Welsh Government regulations. The Play Sufficiency Duty comes as part of the Welsh Government's anti-poverty agenda which recognises that children can have a poverty of experience, opportunity and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds across Wales. The duty was set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
- 1.3** As part of this duty the Council must:
 - complete the assessment document
 - produce an accompanying action plan
 - produce an Executive Summary providing an overview of the process and the outcome, which is accessible to the public
 - publish information about play opportunities in the area
- 1.4** In meeting this duty, the Council must have regard (amongst other things) for the needs of disabled children and the needs of children of different ages.

- 1.5** An initial Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action plan was undertaken in 2013 when the duty first came into being, and again in 2016. Councils are required to reassess their play sufficiency every three years. On 31st March 2019 the Council was required to submit an updated Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plan using the template provided by Welsh Government.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Play Sufficiency Assessment document, Play Action Plan and Executive Summary are attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2** The assessment has highlighted that:
- 2.3** Whilst financial resources are limited, the local authority is meeting its duty of providing sufficient play opportunities. There has been progress made in a number of Matter areas since the previous PSA in 2016, which is positively impacting on the provision of quality play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.4** There has been a move forward in relation to partnership working with increased pooling of resources. There is improved communication across internal departments and with external partners, and an increased desire and understanding for the need to work together more. However there are still pockets of developments taking place on their own internally within the Council so there are still further opportunities for joined up working to maximise the limited resources available.
- 2.5** There has been an investment in funding to increase access to fixed play equipment across the Vale, with areas in the rural Vale also benefitting from the funding. These have been welcomed by the communities affected, however it has also caused negative comments to be received from those communities who have not benefited from this funding and who feel their areas are also in need of upgrading.
- 2.6** There has been increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to access play opportunities during school holidays through the Families First Holiday Club and the Teenscheme project, in addition to increased opportunities to access play through the medium of Welsh.
- 2.7** There is a growing passion and understanding of the benefits of play amongst a number of internal and external partners, who are committed to the further development of play opportunities for children and young people. It is essential to ensure that we use these individuals as campaigners for play when they are at their various networks and meetings.

- 2.8** There has been increased awareness and interest amongst non-play professionals regarding the indirect impact they have on a child's ability to play e.g. Traffic Management Engineers and Planning professionals.
- 2.9** The area that has seen the most positive change is within 'Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce' with increased access to appropriate playwork training.
- 2.10** Where opportunities have emerged to secure additional funding for play, such as the monies allocated from Welsh Government, this funding has been welcomed and appropriately used to positively impact on play.
- 2.11** There has been progress with moving away from the assumption that there is a need for fixed play equipment / play area to be located near every child in order for them to experience quality play. The play survey highlighted that there is an appreciation of the good natural environment in the Vale such as open spaces, woodlands and beaches in enabling children to experience play in its widest form. However it will continue to be a priority to promote the availability of no cost play within the Vale.
- 2.12** There is a desire to increase opportunities, however a lack of resources means that there are only limited people available to develop this area of work. The identification of long term funding continues to be an issue for both internal and external partners with limited funding available for developing play opportunities in the Vale. This not only impacts on programme delivery but also on developing staffing infrastructure. This limits strategic planning and continues to prove time consuming.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** Throughout the Play Sufficiency Assessment process, consideration has been given to the five ways of working. Partnership working is an essential element required to not only complete the Assessment process but also to successfully implement the identified actions. The Assessment document clearly acknowledges that the development and provision of play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan requires input from a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, and is not the sole responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- 3.2** In the previous Play Sufficiency Assessments it was acknowledged that an integrated multi agency approach to the development of play services in the Vale of Glamorgan was the only way in which a service could be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which play opportunities are developed and there are examples throughout the Play Sufficiency Assessment document where internal departments such as the Healthy Living Team (formerly the Sports & Play Development team), planning

department, Neighbourhood Services team (formerly Parks & Open Spaces Team), Family Information Service, Children's Services and external organisations such as Town & Community Councils, and community groups have worked collaboratively to benefit play. The partners identified throughout the document will continue to work together and will be integral to the effective delivery of the actions identified in the Play Action plan.

- 3.3** Information obtained from a variety of avenues has been used to inform the completion of this assessment process and the accompanying action plan. These include considering the views of local residents obtained through a variety of mechanisms including the completion of online surveys targeting children / young people, discussions with parents / guardians, consultation at events including Family Fun Days and through links to groups such as the Families First Holiday Club, to ensure the views of disabled children and their families are obtained. Existing data gathered through other consultation mechanisms such as S106 consultation, Community mapping consultations and the Viewpoint survey have also informed the assessment.
- 3.4** The play development work is a significant contributor to the Wellbeing Outcome of 'An Active & Healthy Vale', particularly to the objective of 'encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles'. However play is a cross cutting activity that can impact across all of the well-being goals including tackling inequalities and enabling people to participate and contribute in their local communities. In delivering the actions identified in the Play Action Plan the Council will also be contributing to the national well-being goals, in particular 'a healthier Wales'.
- 3.5** The acknowledgement of the value of play by both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and their partners is emphasised by the inclusion of play within key local documents such as the Council's Corporate Plan and the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board's Wellbeing Plan. Work to deliver play opportunities is being progressed through a number of different policy agendas via these documents and through inclusion in other corporate documents including the Council's Leisure Strategy.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** Due to the limited financial resources available for play, the action plan mainly takes into account low cost / no cost actions. Whilst the implementation of the majority of actions are achievable within existing financial parameters, the delivery of some actions are dependent on securing additional funding from external sources.

- 4.2** A few years ago the Local Authority allocated £30,000 towards the development of play opportunities. As the Healthy Living Team has been successful in securing other funding to deliver projects to date, this funding has not yet been fully utilised and is available moving forward to develop activities.

Employment

- 4.3** There are no direct employment implications associated with the Strategy.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.4** There is a duty placed on the Local Authority by the Welsh Government to undertake the Play Sufficiency Assessment process via the Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.
- 4.5** The Play Sufficiency Assessment is to be carried out in accordance with the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 which sets out the times scales for assessments to be undertaken, the matters to be taken account of and the persons to be consulted. The regulations also require the inclusion of an action plan and provisions relating to the publication of the Assessment

5. Background Papers

Play Have Your Say Survey Report - An overview of the results of the online play survey.

Vale of Glamorgan
PLAY
Sufficiency
Assessment
Executive Summary



March 2019

This document is available in Welsh.
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Contents ...

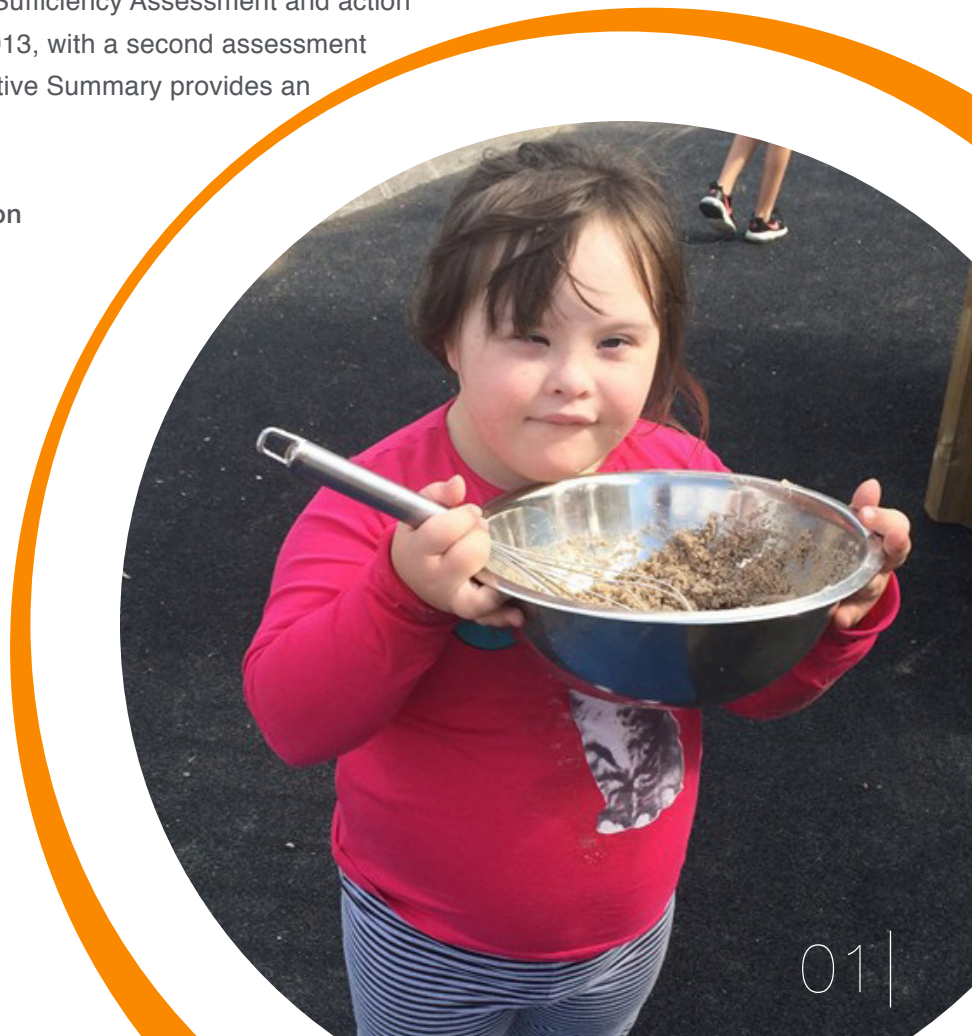
- 1** Background 1
- 2** Completing the assessment 2
- 3** What did we find out 4
- 4** Moving forward 8

Background

The Welsh Government is the first Government in the World to legislate for children's play – they acknowledge that children have a right to be able to play and therefore they are committed to improving opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety. The Vale of Glamorgan Council also acknowledges and supports this right.

To demonstrate their commitment to driving this agenda forward, in November 2012 the Welsh Government placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess the level of play opportunities in their area and produce an accompanying action plan to improve play opportunities available. The Vale of Glamorgan Play Sufficiency Assessment and action plan was initially completed in March 2013, with a second assessment process completed in 2016. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the 2019 assessment.

The full assessment process and action plan can be obtained by contacting KJDavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or calling 01446 704793.





Completing the assessment

Whilst the Vale of Glamorgan Council took the lead on the Play Sufficiency Assessment process, it was acknowledged from the outset that the development and provision of play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan is the responsibility of a variety of public and voluntary services.

More than fifty individuals from internal Council departments and external organisations inputted into the process. A Play Sufficiency workshop was held which was attended by twenty three people from fifteen different Council departments and external organisations. Organisations were also able to input by providing evidence to support the different matter areas identified in the PSA document. In comparison to the previous assessment processes, the response rate was around the same as with the 2016 assessment.

Play Sufficiency Assessment

The views of children, young people and residents have also been taken into account through methods including:

- an online survey called 'Play – Have Your Say' targeting children and young people. 304 people completed this survey.
- consultation at events including Family Fun Days
- consultation through links to the Index and groups such as the Families First Holiday Club, to ensure the views of disabled children and their families are obtained.
- including play related questions in the Vale-wide Viewpoint survey which targeted children and young people. 1325 people completed this survey.
- looking at useful data from sources such as Community Mapping exercises that have been undertaken by the Creative Rural Communities Team, S106 consultation exercises and information from surveys undertaken by local Town and Community Councils.

The 'Play – Have Your Say' survey completed by children and young people highlighted that:

- **64%** would rate their opportunities for playing as great or good.
 - **71%** go out to play or hang out at least a few times a week, but 7% never play outside.
 - **32%** would like more time to play or hang out with friends.
 - **21.5%** think that some or most adults are grumpy and do not like children playing out.
 - **93%** always or usually feel safe when playing or hanging out.
 - **14%** feel that the places they play in are not good and they cannot do all they would like to.
-
- Children and young people play in more than 30 different types of places in the Vale, which are dependent on what is local to them, where they can safely travel and where they feel safe to play.
 - The fantastic natural environment in the Vale helps children and families to undertake local play opportunities.
 - Whilst many children feel they have access to good play opportunities, this is very much dependent on where they live, whether they are allowed to play in the places they want to and what type of play they like.
 - Things that are not good about playing in the Vale include:
 - play equipment being unsuitable for all ages, particularly for older children and young people
 - worn fixed play equipment
 - busy traffic
 - accessing local play opportunities and spaces in identified areas
 - having places to play when it is raining
 - feeling safe playing out in the evenings
 - some children feel that adults do not want them to play in the places they do.

These findings were similar to those received from the Viewpoint survey completed by children and young people.



What did we find out

Whilst financial resources are limited, the local authority is meeting its duty of providing sufficient play opportunities.

As part of the assessment process the Local Authority had to consider a large number of statements relating to play and indicate whether they would assess the current position in the Vale as red, amber or green (RAG status) in relation to each statement. Analysis of the RAG status of the 99 criteria identified that 28 of the criteria were assessed as green, 63 as amber and 8 as red. The assessment has illustrated that there has been increases in 14 of the criteria. 75 of the criteria were assessed as remaining the same. 24 of those that remained the same were for criteria that were already green in status, thus demonstrating good achievement against a large number of criteria. The status of 6 of the criteria has decreased

Play Sufficiency Assessment

The assessment has highlighted that:

- There has been progress made in a number of Matter areas since the previous PSA in 2016 which is positively impacting on the provision of quality play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- There has been a move forward in relation to partnership working with increased pooling of resources. There is improved communication across internal departments and with external partners, and an increased desire and understanding for the need to work together more. However there are still pockets of developments taking place on their own internally within the Council so there are still further opportunities for joined up working to maximise the limited resources available.
- There has been an investment in funding to increase access to fixed play equipment across the Vale, with areas in the rural Vale also benefitting from the funding. Where possible resources are being secured to continue to improve opportunities, and this has been particularly successful in relation to securing S106 funding and via funding streams accessed through the Creative Rural Communities programme to improve parks, play areas and open spaces in local communities. These have been welcomed by the communities affected, however it has also caused negative comments to be received from those communities who have not benefited from this funding and who feel their areas are also in need of upgrading.
- There has been increased opportunities for disabled children and young people to access play opportunities during school holidays through the Families First Holiday Club and the Teenscheme project.
- As with the previous assessment, this assessment highlighted that there is a growing passion and understanding of the benefits of play amongst a number of internal and external partners, who are committed to the further development of play opportunities for children and young people. It is essential to ensure that we use these individuals as campaigners for play when they are at their various networks and meetings.
- There has been increased awareness and interest amongst non-play professionals regarding the indirect impact they have on a child's ability to play. For example, how planners can help in making sure there are spaces to play in areas where new building work is taking place. This, together with the interest generated from the recently held PSA Workshop has led to an interest in revisiting the organisation of a Play Sufficiency Steering Group which will bring together people from different backgrounds to discuss how more play opportunities can be developed. In addition to this, the local authority will continue with the smaller task and finish groups which are organised when required.
- The area that has seen the most positive change is within 'Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce' where seven of the eleven criteria statements have progressed. These progressions have been assisted by national changes whereby more training has become available such as the L2App and MAHPS. These courses have made playwork training more accessible and attractive to the casual playwork staff who work in

the Vale of Glamorgan and has also enabled individuals with associated qualifications to add playwork to their portfolio of qualifications, thus expanding the number of people who can deliver play.

- Where opportunities have emerged to secure additional funding for play, such as the monies allocated from Welsh Government, this funding has been welcomed and appropriately used to positively impact on play. However the timeframe in which this funding was available and had to be spent, and due to the limitations on what the funding can be used for, there were some areas that the Vale would like to use the funding for but have not been able to do so. The Welsh Government funding has been used for areas such as:
 - purchase equipment and resources for use at playschemes and events delivered by the Healthy Living Team and other partners including community organisations. This includes the purchase of specialist equipment to support the inclusion of disabled children into play provision.
 - purchase of fixed play equipment placed in parks identified through the improvement plan for fixed play areas, including those within the rural Vale to assist in overcoming barriers to play experienced in rural areas. Where possible inclusive equipment was purchased to support the inclusion of disabled children.
 - to support the costs of delivering some Play Rangers, Playscheme and Play events.
 - training for those involved in the delivery of play, including training to ensure the inclusion of disabled children into play opportunities.
 - raising awareness of the benefits of play and the different play types available.
 - expansion of Outdoor Play Opportunities through the purchase of a variety of outdoor play and Forest Schools equipment.
 - the creation of an Interactive Tree Trail at Romilly Park, Barry which is an exciting resource that will encourage outdoor activity for many years to come.
 - increasing play provision delivered through the medium of Welsh by supporting Menter Bro Morgannwg to deliver additional open access playschemes during school holiday.
- The Play – Have Your Say online survey and the results from the Viewpoint survey provided useful feedback from the children and young people regarding their experience of and access to play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. As highlighted earlier in this document, this showed that 64% would rate their opportunities for playing as great or good.
- In the previous PSA one of the priorities identified was to focus on developing ‘playful communities’ whereby there is an understanding of the need to widen the areas where people perceive children can play and what ‘play’ really means. The definition of play to some people can be very fixed so there is a need to broaden these perceptions and highlight the various play experiences available within the Vale that can be undertaken for low or no cost. Since this PSA there has been progress with moving away from the assumption that there is a need for fixed play equipment / play area to be located near every child in order for them to experience quality play. The play survey highlighted that there is an appreciation of the good natural environment in the Vale such as open spaces, woodlands and beaches in enabling children to experience play in its widest form. However it will continue to be a priority to promote the availability of no cost play within the Vale.

Play Sufficiency Assessment

- There is a desire to increase opportunities, however a lack of resources means that there are only limited people available to develop this area of work. The identification of long term funding continues to be an issue for both internal and external partners with limited funding available for developing play opportunities in the Vale. This not only impacts on programme delivery but also on developing staffing infrastructure. This limits strategic planning and continues to prove time consuming.
- The criteria areas that have decreased were mainly due to lack of resources. The areas that have decreased include background work relating to planning such as open space assessments, Accessible Greenspace study, and assessment of brownfield sites for reclamation for play. There is also a need to update the relevant website pages with clear information relating to all parks and play areas in the Vale, including information regarding the accessibility of these places.





Moving Forward

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and its partners remain committed to providing play opportunities and this commitment is demonstrated in the inclusion of play in the corporate plan. The positive benefits of play is also recognised by the Public Service Board by the inclusion of play in their Wellbeing Plan.

As was the case with both the 2013 and 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessments, due to financial constraints there will be limited budgets available for the Council to allocate to play moving forward. However the positive collaborative working between partners will continue and it is hoped that this will continue to ensure that resources are found to drive forward the actions identified in the action plan that has been created as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process.

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Many of the actions identified in the plan are low cost actions or actions that can be delivered with no additional cost utilising existing resources. The results from the play survey undertaken with children, in addition to the discussions undertaken at the PSA Workshop highlighted barriers to participation and potential actions that have been considered and included where appropriate. As with previous PSA action plans, it is intended that this document will be a working document, which will be reviewed and amended where appropriate.

The Welsh Government has combined their relevant funding streams to form the Children and Communities Grant. This has brought positive opportunities in relation to play and has provided the opportunity to bid for funding to employ an additional staff member to assist with developing more play opportunities in the Vale. If the funding bid is successful this staff member will seek to increase opportunities across specific projects and to those who currently have limited access.

The full action plan can be found in the full PSA document.

Below is an overview of priority areas included in the action plan:

- **Increasing the amount of and access to play opportunities in identified areas in the rural areas.**
- **Increasing access to play opportunities for disabled children and young people.**
- **Increasing opportunities for children to access play through the medium of Welsh.**
- **Increasing awareness regarding the existing play opportunities available in the Vale and how children, young people and families can use the natural environment to access low cost / no cost play.**
- **Raising awareness regarding the benefits of play and the child's right to play in their community.**
- **Investigating ways of supporting children to be able to safely travel to spaces to play and use fun, active methods to do so. There is a greater understanding of the impact that traffic and safe routes to play spaces has on children's ability to access play opportunities.**
- **Develop the Play infrastructure within the Local Authority, increasing capacity within the Healthy Living Team to enable more strategic development, in addition to more delivery of opportunities.**
- **The delivery of a Community Play Ambassadors project to support young people to become 'play ambassadors' through training, qualifications and volunteering opportunities with the aim of getting children active through play. (This action is dependent on a successful funding bid).**

Vale of Glamorgan

PLAY

Sufficiency Assessment

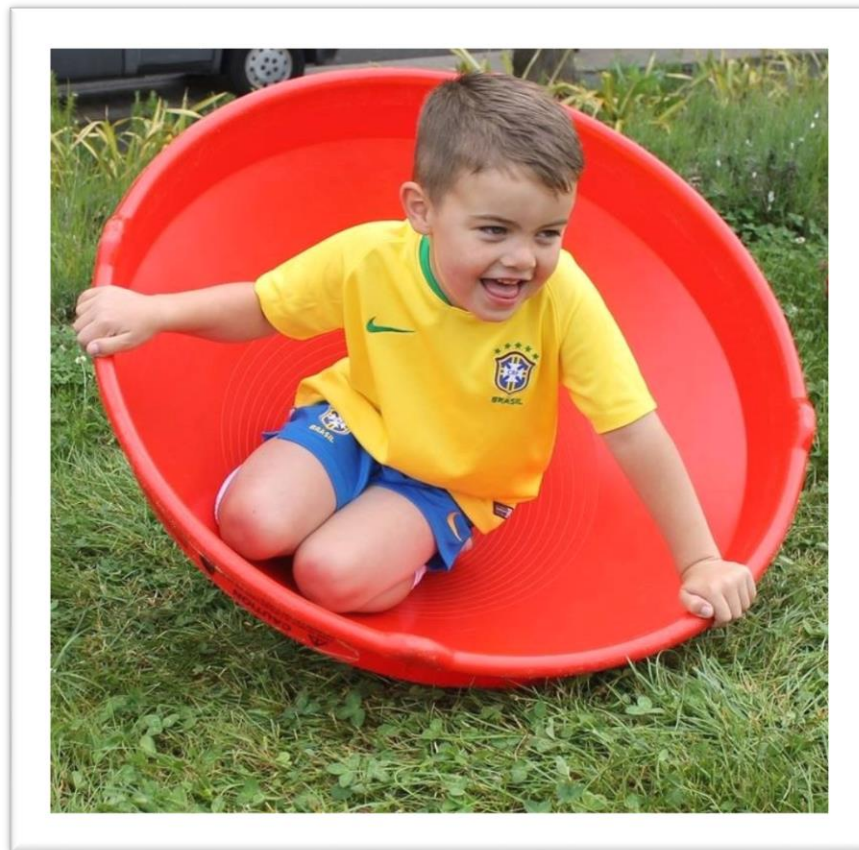
Executive Summary



Vale of Glamorgan Council
Healthy Living Visible Services



The Vale of Glamorgan Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Name of responsible officer: Karen Davies

Job title: Principal Healthy Living Officer

Date of completion: 25th March 2019

Contents Page

Section 1: Principle Statement	3
Section 2: Context & Partnership Working	5
Section 3: Consultation & Participation	13
Section 4: Maximising Resources	28
Section 5: The Play Sufficiency Assessment & local Well-being Plans	37
Section 6: Monitoring Play Sufficiency	39
Section 7: Evidencing the Matter Areas	40
Matter A: Population	41
Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs	46
Matter C: Space Available for Children to Play: Open Spaces & Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Space	70
Matter D: Supervised Provision	84
Matter E: Charges for Play Provision	101
Matter F: Access to Space / Provision, Information, Publicity, Events	108
Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce	128
Matter H: Community Engagement & Participation	150
Matter I: Play within all relevant Policy & Implementation Agendas	154
Section 8: Conclusion	176
Section 9: Way Forward	180
Section 10: The Vale of Glamorgan Play Action Plan 2019 – 2021	181

Section 1: Principle Statement

This section should be used to articulate the Local Authority's acknowledgement of the value and importance of play in the lives of children.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council continues to support Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that play is a fundamental right of all children and young people.

Article 31: the right for all children to have rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities and to participate in cultural life and the arts

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Play-FINAL.pdf>

The acknowledgement of the value of play by both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and their partners is emphasised by the inclusion of play within key local documents such as the Council's Corporate Plan and the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board's Wellbeing Plan, as discussed further in this document. Work to deliver play opportunities is being progressed through a number of different policy agendas via these documents and through inclusion in other corporate documents including the Council's Leisure Strategy, which is currently in draft format.

The inclusion of play in these high level policy documents ensures that discussions continue to take place regarding play and the benefits it brings, and that consideration for the play needs of children, young people and their communities are recognised when developing relevant local policies and strategies. It is becoming increasingly recognised that professionals outside of the 'play services domain' in services such as planning, transportation and Education can all have an impact on the play experiences of children and residents when making policy decisions and implementing actions. It is essential that all internal departments fully understand the impact that decisions made by their service have on the play opportunities available to children, young people and their families, and equally the positive contribution and impact that the inclusion of play within their plans can bring to their service outcomes.

The investment of time by Council Officers and external partners into the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and the desire to progress actions identified in the Play Action plans over the past years, highlights the continued desire to increase access to quality play opportunities. More than 50 individuals with an interest in play (in addition to local residents) have contributed into this assessment process and a number have expressed the desire to help shape the future play actions by becoming involved in the Play Sufficiency Working Group. It is with this collective voice that more progress can be made to further advocate the benefits of play in the Vale of Glamorgan.

In her 'Spotlight Report: Article 31 - the right for all children to have rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities and to participate in cultural life and the arts (March 2018)', the Children's Commissioner for Wales highlights the ambition that 'every child has a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time'. However she also recognised that it is becoming increasingly difficult to do this with the financial and resource pressures faced by Local Authorities and partners. The Local Authority also acknowledges these pressures. Difficult decisions are therefore having

to be made to ensure that statutory services such as Education and Social Services are delivered and this inevitably is impacting on the budgets of non-statutory services such as play. However, as identified by the Children's Commissioner, the growing evidence that is available demonstrating the positive impacts that play has on the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of children and young people highlights the importance of investing in this service, and that this investment will have a positive contribution to other statutory service areas. There has been progress made internally within the Council and with external partners to pool resources and work towards agreed actions either for the benefit of increasing play opportunities or utilising play as a tool to achieve other aims and objectives. However it is also acknowledged that there is still distance to travel in relation to developing a mind-set amongst some, that investment in play can have a positive long-term impact on an individuals' health, wellbeing and education thereby investing in play is also investing in the development of a healthy community. There is a commitment to continue to increase the recognition of the cross cutting impact of play.

It is acknowledged that play is important for all children and young people. However it is recognised that some children and young people appear to experience more barriers when trying to access play opportunities. These include disabled children and young people, those living in areas where there is limited access to outdoor open space, those living in families with low income and those who need to travel to access play opportunities where challenges such as busy roads and transport costs limit the opportunity to play.

There has been a commitment to raising awareness of the benefits of play amongst Local Authority staff, Councillors, external partners and the local residents. The Local Authority will continue to advocate on behalf of play and encourage a recognition that involvement in play can :

- provide children and young people with the opportunity to let off steam and have fun! (a release from all of the things they 'have to do').
- assist with developing positive physical and mental health
- provide the opportunity for children to make friends, which in turn develops their confidence, social skills and mental health
- promote imagination, independence and creativity
- break down the barriers that are often faced in society as children of all abilities and backgrounds can play together
- increase self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-respect
- build resilience through risk taking and overcoming challenges, problem solving, and dealing with different situations
- provide opportunities for children to learn about their environment and the wider community
- support the development of a greater sense of community spirit, promoting social cohesion

Section 2: Context & Partnership Working

This section should describe the methodology used to undertake and approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan and any consultation with partners on the Assessment/Action Plan. It should also list the key partners that engaged with the process and identify any challenges in undertaking the Assessment. It should describe the mechanism that the Local Authority proposes to use to take forward the identified actions for the action plan.

This section should demonstrate to what extent the following (and others) were involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the action plan:

- Town and Community Councils
- Third sector organisations, particularly play associations and play providers
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups

Input into the Play Sufficiency Assessment Process

It is acknowledged that the development and provision of play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan requires input from a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, and is not the sole responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. A range of individuals from internal departments and external organisations have been provided with the opportunity to input into the Play Sufficiency Assessment and support the development of the accompanying action plan. The response and input has been varied as can be seen by the different level of information provided across the document. It has been a difficult process to obtain all of the required information to complete all sections of this document. However this process is useful for continuing conversations about play with existing partners and stimulating new conversations with partners who previously had little or no involvement.

In comparison to the previous assessment processes, the response rate was around the same as with the 2016 assessment. However in some areas less detail was provided than on previous occasions. The issue of capacity affecting the ability to input into this assessment process as fully as desired, has been highlighted by a number of internal and external partners and also by the PSA Lead Officer who has to continue with their day to day duties in addition to completing the assessment.

When the Welsh Assembly announced the 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment process, the information was shared with senior managers within the Vale of Glamorgan Council. At this point the PSA was also raised at relevant meetings to remind partners of the duty, to inform them that the assessment process would be commencing shortly and to highlight that their input would be welcome. Once the finalised PSA toolkit document was received from Welsh Government, the process of inviting relevant internal departments and external organisations to input into the process commenced.

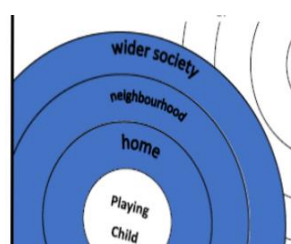
Staff members from the Healthy Living Team within the Vale of Glamorgan Council led on the collation of data, and completion of the PSA document and accompanying action plan. These staff members already had a good awareness of the play sector within the Vale and were involved in the completion of the previous assessments so had many contacts across the sector.

An explanatory e-mail was sent to relevant internal departments and external organisations to explain why the PSA process was being undertaken, and what type of information was required to complete the assessment. Taking into account feedback from previous assessments, for those partners who have a specific link to play (for example, those in the planning department), the PSA lead officer extracted the statements relevant to them and inserted these into a separate document for ease of completion. They were also provided with the full document should they wish to comment against other sections. Those organisations and departments who were seen to have a cross cutting impact on play were provided with the opportunity to comment against all sections of the assessment document. As with previous assessments, a number of people indicated that the size of the document was quite intimidating.

In November 2018 a workshop was held to bring together individuals from the range of internal departments and external organisations who may either directly or indirectly impact on play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. 23 people attended the workshop from the following internal departments / organisations:

- Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team
- Llandough Community Council
- Menter Bro Morgannwg
- Play Wales
- South Wales Police
- St Nicholas & Bonvilston Community Council
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Families First Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Family Information Service
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Flying Start
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Healthy Living Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Health & Safety Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Planning & Transportation Service
- Vale of Glamorgan Council School Improvement & Inclusion Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Strategy & Partnership Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Services
- Ysgol Y Deri

The workshop provided an opportunity to update attendees regarding the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and the steps for completing the 2019 assessment and action plan. The workshop also provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the range of professionals who can impact on play. The workshop was supported by Play Wales who facilitated a discussion utilising the Ecological Systems Approach model which considers the various factors that could impact on a child's ability to play based around four key themes: the child; the home; the community/neighbourhood; the wider society/strategic planning. The tables below highlight the factors discussed :



Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

THE CHILD PLAYING	
Factors	Suggested Solutions
Disability	
Bullying	
Lack of friends/living locally/ only child	Playschemes
Age	
Trust	
Confidence	
Peer Age restrictive	
Other distractions	
Not able to entertain self	

HOME	
Factors	Suggested Solutions
Social media – scare mongering around playing outside	
Parents input e.g. child not allowed to get dirty	
Mental health	
Parental fears (perceived or real)	Parents attend coffee/tea session to discuss and play together; Guidance; Addressing myth – media campaign
No adult supervision	Adult supervision
Time restricted / lifestyle	Encouragement to move away from technology
Risk averse	Educate regarding risky play and managing risk Primary schools to incorporate more outdoor exploring and learning
Co-parenting	
Technology	Offer alternative; Interaction – removing phone
Clashes with families	Communication
Other distractions	Limit time online
Different schools	Mixed schools events

COMMUNITY / NEIGHBOURHOOD	
Factors	Suggested Solutions
Lack of open space	Open school grounds on weekends and holidays
Violence / gangs	
Drugs	
Access to green and open space Lack of green space and provision	Update equipment – age appropriate for all ages Community school ethos Effective & strategic use of S106 monies Change play equipment & provisions including schools
Roads / traffic	Adhering to best practice Speed limit of 20mph in high play areas – signs Play Zone – 20mph Be Kid Aware! Planning restrictions for new roads Calming devices Blocked off
Safety	
Grass verges	
No parks / equipment / play provision	
More emphasis on formal play e.g. play centres - cost	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Lack of disabled friendly spaces	
Intolerance of neighbours	Playing out & road closure schemes Positive signage
Accessible facilities	
Rural / Urban characteristics	
Nuisance factor	Link communities PCSO's Improve provisions
Unsafe access	Risk management Education Media campaign
Not knowing neighbours	Intergenerational events
No available friends	Playschemes
	Community recognition – removing intolerance
	Work with different organisations

STRATEGIC PLANNING / WIDER SOCIETY	
Factors	Suggested Solutions
Parents feeling their 'parenting' is being judged	
Speeding traffic	Reduce speed limits – 20mph zones More information re alternative transport methods .e. train/bus rather than car
Disapproval by neighbours	
Media influence	
Area : population ratio	
Amenity space	Informal / formal spaces for range of ages / activities. Play priority areas Remove negative signs e.g. no ball games
Crime rate – safety	
Stranger danger	Positive messaging & targeting the right audience – social media Links to parents - updates
Potential lack of maintenance (parks?)	
Changing nature of play – more technology now than outdoor games	
Social media	Positive messages around play opportunities
Lack of info, guidance & education for parents	Information provision
Road planning – off street parking Roads too small or busy	
Unsafe access	Risk management Education Media campaign
	Remove social media and image pressure
	Teaching adults about play
	Universal youth provision i.e. youth clubs

The Feedback from the workshop was positive with comments including:

"I found the workshop very useful (especially as a parent, not just a worker). Widened my thoughts on play planning"

"Today was very useful. Collaborative working is the way forward".

"I did find today very useful". Our community is 'adult play' heavy i.e. cricket, football, bowls. I want to provide facilities for other age groups and activities especially youth".

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

As with information gained from the various consultation undertaken, the workshop information has been used to inform the action planning for the forthcoming year but will also shape future discussion within the Play Sufficiency Working group. This is being re-established as a result of interest generated from attendance at this workshop. Representatives from the Healthy Living Team, Community Councils, Youth Service, Public Service Board, Ysgol Y Deri, Families First Team, Children's Partnership, Healthy Schools & Pre-school programme and Menter Bro Morgannwg have all expressed an interest in being involved in the Play Sufficiency Working group moving forward. Smaller topic specific working groups will also continue to take place where appropriate.

The external organisations and internal departments who assisted in the completion of this document are highlighted below. Others were provided with the opportunity, but did not input into the process.

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Karen Davies Joanne Jones	Healthy Living Team Vale of Glamorgan Council	Principal Healthy Living Officer Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play)
Dave Knevett	Healthy Living & Performance Team Vale of Glamorgan Council	Operational Manager
Emma Reed	Visible Services & Transport Vale of Glamorgan Council	Head of Neighbourhood Services & Transport
Becky Wickett Julia Sky Kelly Hughes	Family Information Service Vale of Glamorgan Council	Information Officer Index Officer (disability) Outreach & Information Officer
Hannah Dineen	Economic Development Vale of Glamorgan Council	Senior Regeneration Officer
Marianne Mannello	Play Wales	Assistant Director
Lucy Butler John Marks	Regeneration & Planning Vale of Glamorgan Council	Principal Planner Senior Planner
Charlotte Pugh	Planning & Transportation Service Vale of Glamorgan Council	Senior Planner (including S106 funding)
Gareth Powell	Children & Young People's Services Vale of Glamorgan Council	Flying Start Manager
Anne Phillips Catherine Perry Christine Farr	Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team	Senior Health Promotion Specialist: responsibility for play Senior Health Promotion Specialist: Healthy Pre-schools Senior Health Promotion Specialist: Healthy Schools
Tara Reddy	Strategy, Community Learning & Resources Vale of Glamorgan Council	Senior Youth Manager, Universal Provision
Debbie Maule	School Improvement & Inclusion Vale of Glamorgan Council	Children's Partnership Co-ordinator
Adam Sargent	Visible & Housing Services Vale of Glamorgan Council	Parks & Open Spaces Officer

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Dave Porter	Human Resources Services Vale of Glamorgan Council	Principal Health & Safety Officer
Tim Greaves	Equalities Team Vale of Glamorgan Council	Equalities Co-ordinator
Richard Evans	Procurement & Insurance Vale of Glamorgan Council	Procurement & Insurance Assistant
Helen Moses	Performance & Development Services Vale of Glamorgan Council	Strategy & Partnership Manager
Lloyd Fisher		Policy Officer
Aaron Jones	Cosmeston Lakes Country Park Vale of Glamorgan Council	Site Ranger
Ffion Rhisiart	Mentor Bro Morgannwg	Development Officer
Mark Davies	School Improvement & Inclusion Vale of Glamorgan Council	Prevention & Partnership Manager
Cllr Andrew Brown	St Nicholas & Bonvilston Community Council	Community Council Committee Member
Gethin Robinson	South Wales Police	Police Officer
Marie-Claire Watt	Ysgol Y Deri	Family Liaison Officer
Karen Stokes	Visible Services & Transport Vale of Glamorgan Council	Senior Road Safety Officer
Sarah-Jayne Beechey	Learning & Skills Vale of Glamorgan Council	Families First/Flying Start Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Louise Brooks	Llangan Community Council	Acting Clerk & Community Cllr
Cllr Barrowclough	Llandough Community Council	Councillor
Melanie Stewart	Porthkerry Country Park Vale of Glamorgan Council	Site Ranger
Karen Stokes	Visible Services & Transport Vale of Glamorgan Council	Senior Road Safety Officer
Lee Howells	Highways & Engineering Vale of Glamorgan Council	Engineering Manager
<p>All Vale of Glamorgan schools were invited to input the process – the following did:</p> <p>High Street Primary Holton Road Primary Jenner Park Primary Llandough Primary Ysgol Pen-y-Garth Peterston-Super-Ely Primary St Brides Major C/W Primary St Cyres Comprehensive St Davids Primary St Helens Primary St Nicholas Primary St Illtyd Primary Victoria Primary Wick & Marcross Primary Y Bont Faen Primary Ysgol Y Deri Special School Ysgol Dewi Sant Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg</p>		

There are no specific play associations based in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Partnership Working

In the previous Play Sufficiency Assessments it was acknowledged that an integrated multi agency approach to the development of play services in the Vale of Glamorgan was the only way in which a service could be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which play opportunities are developed and there are examples throughout this document of how internal departments such as the Healthy Living Team (formerly the Sports & Play Development team), planning department, Neighbourhood Services team (formerly Parks & Open Spaces Team), Family Information Service, Children's Services and external organisations such as Town & Community Councils, and community groups have worked collaboratively to benefit play. The partners identified throughout the document will continue to work together and will be integral to the effective delivery of the actions identified in the Play Action plan.

Representatives from the Healthy Living Team continue to attend the All Wales Strategic Network meetings and the Regional PSA network meetings. Both of these have provided a good support mechanism to facilitate the sharing of information and good practice relating specifically to the PSA, and more generally around play matters. This continues to be important for the Vale of Glamorgan, as the play infrastructure at a local authority level is limited.

Partnership working continues to be essential and is proving successful when developing services for targeted groups such as disabled children and young people, as highlighted further in this document. This will continue to be the case to maximise the impact on increasing play provision for these identified groups.

Cross county liaison continues to take place between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff Council's Play Officers. Recent discussions have also taken place with the Cardiff & Vale Improvement Project Manager who was interested to find out about the Families First Holiday Club (disability playscheme) delivered in the Vale of Glamorgan as there is interest in delivering a scheme to offer similar opportunities to disabled children and young people in Cardiff. Discussions have taken place on the feasibility of working in partnership to deliver this provision across both Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. At this point in time it has been decided that they will continue to run as two separate schemes. However they will share good practice across the schemes and will revisit the feasibility of joint provision in the future if appropriate.

Approval Process

The approval process for the plan has included consultation with Chief Officers and relevant Cabinet members. The 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying action plan is due to be considered by the Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet in May 2019. Therefore it is acknowledged that changes may be made to this document following this. Any changes will be reported to Welsh Government where appropriate.

Partners who have contributed to the Play Sufficiency Assessment process have been provided with the opportunity to comment on the document prior to finalisation and submission to Welsh Government.

Since the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment process and more recently, there has been a rationalisation of committees and meetings. Decisions are currently being made as to which committee and meetings the Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying action plan will be reported to. It will be discussed at a forthcoming Public Service Board meeting as part of the discussions around the Wellbeing objective 'Give children the best start in life'

The Play Sufficiency Assessment continues to be a standing agenda item at the EYDCP meetings which is a multi-agency network meeting.

Section 3: Consultation and Participation

This section should describe how the Local Authority has:

- Obtained the views of children with regards to the play opportunities they currently access, how they would like the community to better support them to play and what barriers stop them from playing
- Obtained the views on play provision from parents, families and other stakeholders
- Analysed the information and how it has been used to inform future plans

Information obtained from a variety of avenues has been used to inform the completion of this assessment process and the accompanying action plan. These include the completion of online surveys targeting children / young people and discussions with parents / guardians. It has been recognised that it is important to obtain the views of both children/young people and parents /guardians as these can often differ. Consultation has also taken place at events including Family Fun Days and through links to groups such as the Families First Holiday Club, to ensure the views of disabled children and their families are obtained.

Useful data has been extracted from other non-play specific surveys that have taken place such as the Viewpoint survey, through sources such as Community Mapping exercises that have taken been undertaken by the Creative Rural Communities Team and the S106 consultation exercises. Information has also been obtained from surveys and research undertaken by some Town & Community Councils. An overview of some of the consultation undertaken and considered as part of this process are provided below:

Online Play Survey for Children and Young People (Autumn 2018)

The Vale Healthy Living Team created an online Play Survey was created to enable children to identify where they like to play, how they like to play, what they think of the play opportunities available, and whether there were any barriers to them playing in the Vale of Glamorgan. This was promoted through a variety of avenues including through the Vale of Glamorgan Council social media outlets, the internal Staffnet, the Council's consultation e-mail distribution list and internal and external partners including the Cardiff & Vale Public Health team, the Youth Service and schools. It was acknowledged that due to capacity issues and the fact that they were already involved in a number of other surveys, the schools would not necessarily be able to facilitate the completion of the survey within school time, so it was requested that they distribute the survey links to parents.

The questions used in the survey were those recommended by Play Wales. It was acknowledged that an online survey does have limitations, especially in that some of the younger children would need support to complete it. Where a parent, guardian or other adult assisted with the completion, it was stressed that the responses sought were those of the child and not of the adult. A total of 302 people completed the online survey. An overview report has been produced following the survey completion, highlighting the results and feedback obtained.

The survey has provided useful feedback from the children and young people regarding their experience of and access to play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. The survey highlighted:

- 64% would rate their opportunities for playing as great or good.
- 71% go out to play / hang out at least a few times a week, but 7% never play outside.
- 32% would like more time to play or hang out with friends.
- 21.5% think that some / most adults are grumpy and do not like children playing out.
- 93% always or usually feel safe when playing or hanging out
- 14% say the places they play in are not good and they cannot do all they would like.
- Children and young people play in more than 30 different types of places in the Vale, which are dependent on what is local to them, where they can safely travel and where they feel safe to play.
- The fantastic natural environment in the Vale is a positive contributor to children and families accessing local play opportunities.
- Whilst many children feel they have access to good play opportunities, this is very much dependent on where they live, whether they are allowed to play in the places they want to and what type of play they like.
- Things that are not good about playing in the Vale include the lack of fixed play equipment suitable for older children and young people, worn fixed play equipment, traffic, accessing local play opportunities and spaces in identified areas, having places to play when it is raining, feeling safe playing out in the evenings and feedback that some adults do not want children to play in the places they do.

Below are examples of comments provided by the children and young people in the survey:

What is good about playing in the Vale?

- *We have lots of parks and fields. This makes me feel safe and they are amazing!*
- *Fresh air loads of space*
- *Good mix of lake, grass, woodlands, clifftop*
- *The field is good because we can play football*
- *I love the parks with climbing frames as I like to hang upside down and do gymnastics. We like bug hunting too in Victoria Park. I love playing with my friends on the skate ramps at Pencoedtre Park. I can play in the street on my bike with my neighbour.*
- *Lots of space so I can run. The swings are fun. Rope swings on the river. Climbing the tree.*
- *Some of the playgrounds are new around Penarth - Cliff Top is very good. There's also plenty of green space around it. Places like Cosmeston are brilliant. Alexander Park is really good for playing, but the little playground is a bit limited.*
- *Everything, lots of things to do and loads of people to play with*
- *Me and my friend go to the skate park every Saturday we get there by bike or we walk. The skate park is an open area were we go and talk or just mess around.*
- *Good open spaces with opportunities to enjoy time with friends and areas to do near enough what we want.*

What is not good about playing in the Vale?

- *Need more open playing space. Some parks are a bit broken. Some parks are too grown up or too babyish. Want somewhere safe to ride my bike. Nowhere to play with water.*
- *Nowhere to go if it rains no shelter.*
- *Too many bushes.*
- *Everything is a long walk for me. No park, football pitch or playground is near my house. I can't play football on the grass area near my house as it is full of dog poo.*
- *Quite busy roads, not many safe crossings.*
- *There's loads for young children parks swings play centres but there's not anything for teenagers being 14 I don't want to play on a slide or go to jungle jacks I would like high rope courses or an older kids park.*
- *I just go on the street there is no trees to climb or park to get to safe without mums and dads. The good parks we have to go in the car to and I don't get to play with my friends because they don't go there.*
- *Theres a lot of litter on the floor and glass (in the parks)*
- *There's dog poo*
- *Not many of my friends live in the same area ,and there arnt many youth clubs near by apart from cadets*
- *Lots of older teenagers in gangs in park, drinking smoking and swearing so my mum makes me go in coz I have been hurt by them twice.*
- *Some places aren't very well lit when it gets dark.*
- *Parents feel that its unsafe for kids to wonder out alone*
- *The children smoke and I think they do drugs or drink and swear. It makes me feel unsafe and I can't enjoy it. I don't go out on my own with friends because of them. If I go out it is usually with my parents. There is often broken glass, litter and cigarette butts in the skate park. Other than the skatepark and football park there isn't a lot for children of my age to do. There is a Youth Club, but I would never go to that because I don't feel comfortable around children of my age who swear and smoke. I would like to feel safer when I am out. I think that I would like the idea of more sports in the area, and more activities for children my age.*
- *There is a lot of rubbish and you can get some scary people around.*
- *I feel like cars and other vehicles driving around the area should be aware that there are often young children playing in the roads (as not many cars pass through), a lot of drivers speed through the area without looking for obstructions.*

- *Me and my little brother are the only ones allowed to play outside on our own. All my friends need an adult to go with them, there is no-one playing outside on the streets. There is no football pitch or nice playground where we can just go to. The playground (Golden Gate Park, Wordsworth Avenue) at the park where go to play football is rubbish, very old and worn down. The park is mostly used by people walking there dogs (and not cleaning up afterwards). We sometimes go to Victoria park after school, but most children are only allowed to play there for half an hour and then they have to go home with their parents, so there is not much fun for us to stay there.*

Many of the children and young people indicated that they were allowed to play / hang out, and they were encouraged to do so by their parents. When they did, 79% indicated that most adults were either great or ok with children playing out. However some of the respondents, especially those in the older age bracket, experience some negative feedback when they are playing or hanging out with their friends. 18% indicated that 'some adults are grumpy and don't like children playing out' whilst 3% said that 'most adults are grumpy and hate children playing out'. Below are some comments provided by the respondents in relation to this experience:

- *There are a small amount of elderly people who don't like children because we are 'too loud' or 'don't appreciate our surroundings' or simply because 'we don't wear what they'd like us to wear' even though in my group of friends, we try our best to be respectful to everyone around us and keep the volume down.*
- *The green by cosmeston drive now has a sign up saying 'no football, skateboarding and cycling in this area' and me and my friends used to play out there a lot.*
- *Sometimes, I feel judged by adults when going out in a large group of friends, as I think they feel uncomfortable around a lot of us, perhaps intimidated.*
- *Many areas are very close to houses near by which means noise complaints are a big issue.*
- *Some people are not happy with us hanging out on the streets.*

The above highlights how many children and young people perceive that adults have negative perceptions of them when they are trying to play or hang out. Awareness raising needs to take place amongst all age ranges to highlight the benefits of play and the need to understand that all children and young people have a right to play in their communities. It is an obvious statement to say that every adult was once a child. Therefore they need to be reminded of their need to participate in fun, play activities when they were young so there is more empathy with the play needs of children today.

Moving forward, the information gleaned from the survey will be used to inform future planning as part of the ongoing Play Sufficiency Assessment process. However it is recognised that due to the sample size, further consultation is required. It is recognised that 216 out of the 301 respondents were aged 12+, with only 84 being aged 11 and under. The definition of 'play' is obviously different for each individual. These differences are even more evident between different age groups so it is important to consider the ages of those who completed the survey when analysing the results. Another factor that will need to be taken into account when considering the results is the area in which the respondents live. The play opportunities available to children can be impacted upon by a number of factors including the area in which they live, whether that is a rural area or within a town, their

proximity to parks, open spaces, beaches, woodlands etc. The majority of the respondents lived in Penarth (55%) so the responses given could reflect the play opportunities available in that area and therefore may impact upon the results. It was also noted that only 6.1% of the respondents indicated that they had a disability which may not provide a representative viewpoint.

It is recognised that play experiences can vary greatly based on a number of factors including where a child lives and the opportunities available locally to them. Therefore where possible, further localised consultation will take place to enable more localised actions to be considered where appropriate. It is hoped this consultation will take place in conjunction with relevant organisations in each local community such as Town & Community Councils to ensure as many residents as possible input into the process. This will be included as an action to progress in the Play Action Plan.

The results and data from the survey will be shared with internal Council departments who may directly or indirectly have an impact on play including the Healthy Living team, Parks & Open Spaces team, Planning, Transport section and the Youth Service and any other relevant department. The results will also be shared more widely to external organisations who may also directly or indirectly currently impact on play or who may be able to in the future. These include Town and Community Councils, local Public Health Team and voluntary organisations. The survey results have already been shared with the public via social media and will continue to be shared as part of the awareness raising campaign.

The links below are to the Overview Report for the Online Play Survey.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Enjoying/Sports%20Development/Play-Have-your-say-Report-2019.pdf>

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Enjoying/Sports%20Development/Welsh-Play-Have-Your-Say-report.pdf>

Viewpoint Survey (2017)

The Viewpoint survey is open to all schools in the Vale and seeks to gain feedback regarding various well-being areas from children and young people. A few of the play questions that were suggested by Play Wales were included in this survey to assist in obtaining feedback to inform the PSA process. The survey took place in 2017. 211 primary age children and 1114 secondary age young people completed the survey. The results highlighted that:

Primary age children:

- 44% play out most days; 23% play out a few days a week whilst 23% hardly ever play out and worryingly 9% never play out.
- When they go out to play 26% can go out on their own; 57% go out with friends 57%; 18% can only go out with their brother /sister 18%; 37% can only go out with an adult and 3% do not play at all (respondents were able to provide multiple answers to this question).
- When asked what would help them play and hang out more:
 - 53% said find safer ways to cross roads to go out / get around
 - 26% said help them deal with bullies

- 22% said ask dog owners to pick up their dog mess
 - 22% said help them to make their parents understand that it is ok to play and hang out
 - 12% said to talk to adults who tell them not to play or hang out (respondents were able to provide multiple answers to this question).
- When asked what they enjoy doing when they are not in school they highlighted a number of activities including the following which are linked to play:
 - Playing in garden – 39% (69)
 - Bike rides – 42% (74)
 - Going to park – 41%
 - Going to outdoor activity centre – 27% (47)
 - Going out with friends – 45% (79)
 - Watching TV – 58% (103)
 - Playing computer games / Wii/PS/Xbox – 44% (77)
 - Using a skate park – 17% (30)

The age range of the primary school respondents was from 7 – 11 years with 35% age 9, 33% age 10, 21% age 7, 33% age 10 and 6% age 11.

Secondary age young people:

- 32% play out most days; 37% play out a few days a week whilst 24% hardly ever play out and 7% never play out.
- When they go out to play 44% can go out on their own; 80% go out with friends 57%; 11% can only go out with their brother /sister 18%; 11% can only go out with an adult and 9% do not play at all (respondents were able to provide multiple answers to this question).
- 37% want to see more activities for young people in safer places
- When asked what would help them play and hang out more:
 - 41% said find safer ways to cross roads to go out / get around
 - 17% said help them deal with bullies
 - 31% said ask dog owners to pick up their dog mess
 - 24% said help them to make their parents understand that it is ok to play and hang out
 - 11% said to talk to adults who tell them not to play or hang out (respondents were able to provide multiple answers to this question).
- When asked what they enjoy doing when they are not in school they highlighted a number of activities including the following which are linked to play:
 - Going out with friends – 76%
 - Watching TV – 59%
 - Playing computer games / Wii/PS/Xbox – 45%
 - Computer /internet use – 61%
 - Playing Sport – 47%

The age range of the secondary age respondents was 20% age 11; 34% age 12; 29% age 13; 13% age 14; 3% age 15; 1% age 19 – 25

The feedback received from the Viewpoint survey was consistent with those received from the Online Survey in relation to the frequency of children and young people playing and the areas that stop them from playing as much as they would like. As with the online survey, it is noted that a higher percentage of young people aged 12+ completed the survey in comparison to primary school age children.

Let'sTalk – Amser Siarad: Lets Talk about Wellbeing (Spring 2017)

In order to inform the Well-being Plan, a Well-being Assessment was undertaken by the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services board. Following this consultation process a Well-being Assessment Engagement Report was produced which was based on the 808 responses received.

The report was broken down into different well-being areas one of which was Environmental well-being. Within this section 55.5% (416 people) of the respondents highlighted that they were very satisfied with their access to open space. This supports the feedback from children, young people and adults in the play surveys undertaken who highlighted the Vale's outdoor space as a positive asset and one which benefitted their access to play.

Within this report it was also highlighted that there was dissatisfaction in the rural Vale with access to public transport. 206 people answered this question with 61 indicating that they were either fairly or very dissatisfied with access to public transport. Whilst these responses were not specifically given in relation to play, the results do support the feedback provided through the play survey that some children and young people living in rural area struggle to access play opportunities due to issues such as traveling to the opportunity. However it must be noted that some children and young people from non-rural areas also highlighted travelling to their desired places as an issue, particularly the older age group who may have more freedom in their leisure time. The respondents of the Lets Talk survey highlighted that having access to good transport services can directly affect their well-being. Another issue that was raised which was also raised in the play survey was concerns regarding the amount of dog fouling in the Vale. It is important to note that this survey was completed by adults.

Throughout the consultation and engagement period the Public Service Board sought to engage with children and young people to understand what is important in their lives and understand their thoughts on well-being in the Vale of Glamorgan. The map on the following page highlights some of the feedback received from nine, ten and eleven year olds at the Vale Pupil Voice event regarding what is important to them about living in the Vale. Again the consultation results mirrored those found in the online surveys where the children and young people appreciate the natural environment in the Vale, enjoy the parks and like playing with their friends. They also highlighted their worries about littering and smoking in areas.

When asked for their views on their vision for the future of the Vale, members of the Vale Youth Youth Forum highlighted a number of different priorities which included *“Lots of playing areas for kids without any dangers”*.



S106 Consultation

As part of the S106 spend process, the Vale of Glamorgan Council are committed to ensuring that the views of children, young people and adults are taken on board when making decisions regarding the allocation of funding. Various consultation methods have been used to seek these views and the information obtained has helped shape the projects in the respective communities. As part of this consultation process, useful information has been obtained regarding the play opportunities children and young people would like to access. Below are examples of feedback from the consultation undertaken as part of the S106 process.

North Penarth Open Space Improvement Scheme Consultation September 2016

The suggested use of the funding included upgrading the parks and play areas so comments were received regarding these. Other comments received which had a relation to play included:

Dingle Open Space

Respondents were asked if there were any improvements that they would like to see in this open space. The following themes which impact on play can be drawn from the comments that were made:

- Maintain/enhance the natural environment as much as possible;
- increase light in to the park/ add lighting for winter evenings;
- play equipment/something for children;
- dog mess is an issue
- improve cycling links with areas outside of the park.
- any furniture should be in keeping with the natural theme of the open space

Windsor Road

- use traffic calming measures to reduce speed of traffic
- safer crossing to the park
- make the park fencing more attractive to encourage more people to use the park
- litter can be a problem so more bins are needed

Plassey Square

The upgrade to the play area and improving the site furniture were the most favoured proposals with 88% and 87% of respondents favouring those respectively. Other suggestions included:

- fencing off the play area for safety reasons
- maintain the open space as it is well used for ball games
- the planting of flowers and trees should be around the boundary so as not to reduce the playing area
- more bins are needed for the disposal of dog mess
- drainage is a big issue, needs improving before any new facilities are added
- traffic calming measures would be welcomed such as 20mph speed limits or speed bumps to ensure the safety of children playing in close proximity to the busy road.
- seating also welcome to enjoy the views
- suggested play equipment – goal ends, not safety swings
- keep a large area for open play

Paget Road Open Space

The most favoured proposals for Paget Road Open Space were to upgrade the play area and to improve the site furniture. As with the other areas of open space, respondents were then asked if there were any other improvements they would like to suggest for Paget Road. Most offered further comments or suggestions on improvements that had been proposed, such as:

- a multisport area
- upgrading the toddler equipment as well as junior equipment in the park
- more bins needed for dog mess
- lighting considerations – only with agreed time limits so as not to disturb residents/ encourage antisocial behaviour late in to the evenings
- improve access from both ends of the park
- consider a 20mph speed limit or add a zebra crossing to make it safer.
- improved viewpoints and perhaps an information board so people understand what they are looking at across the skyline



Cogan Recreation Ground

- involve local skaters to ensure you have their input in the new design
- the facilities should be suitable for different age groups
- professional graffiti or mural would be good

Rhose Outdoor Space Improvement Scheme Consultation November 2017

It was decided that the priorities for initial funding spend were to include improvements to Ceri Road Play Area and improvement to local tennis courts at Celtic Way. These improvements were implemented and included an accessible roundabout as illustrated.



Community Mapping – Creative Rural Communities

The Creative Rural Communities team have completed a Community Mapping pilot in the communities of St Athan, Wenvoe and Rhose. The community mapping process is a way of bringing a community together to focus on the positives in the area, recognising that everyone has something to offer and attempt to look at solutions to problems arising. The process involves getting people talking about what already exists including social assets such as community groups, organisations and individuals, in addition to physical assets such as community centres, open spaces, parks and businesses. There are many benefits of community mapping including building on the existing strengths in the community, enabling the community to explore and be aware of their assets, identifying new resources and providing evidence of need for external funding. The Community Mapping process has assisted with mapping play opportunities in the respective areas as well as identifying opportunities for improvements. A brief overview is below:

St Athan - 2016

A total of 12 Focus Group Exercises took place between February and May 2016, engaging over 230 people. During these focus groups the following relating to play / leisure was discussed:

- 7 groups highlighted a need to improve the play parks
- 4 groups identified the need for more activities for children
- 1 group identified the need for more activities in school holidays
- 1 group highlighted that better promotion of activities was required
- 1 group indicated that there needed to be activities in the Community Centres e.g. arts and crafts

Members from the Brownies & Guides also identified the need to improve play parks as a priority, whilst representatives from the Youth Service wanted to see cleaner, bigger, better parks and more activities in community centres.

A survey was also completed by 214 residents, however only 4% of these were from children and young people aged under 16. This survey highlighted that residents rated the play areas and parks, children's activities and sports provision as poor/very poor in St Athan. When asked what activities they would like available they indicated more children's clubs and activities and improved play areas. The evidence gathered from the Mapping Exercise in St Athan helped them secure play funding through the Welsh Government play grant to purchase indoor and outdoor play equipment that is being used during community events and play sessions delivered at the local community centre. The Council's Play Development Officer initially supported the community with the delivery of play activities during events and play sessions as a mentoring mechanism to provide them with the skills and knowledge to facilitate activities themselves. The link below provides an overview of the Community Mapping process which also includes a video. From point 2m 20s on this video representatives from St Athan community highlight how this process helped them secure the Welsh Government funding. The evidence has also been used to secure S106 and Creative Rural Communities funding to upgrade the play area. This has been fully implemented with a new play facility, multi-use games area and access improvements on the site. Community Chest funding has also been secured to develop football opportunities in the area.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/Rural-Communities/Evolving-Communities/Community-Mapping/Community-Mapping-Pilot.aspx>

The link for the St Athan Engagement Report is below:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Regeneration/Rural%20Regeneration/Community-Mapping-St-Athan-engagement-engagement-report-web-design.pdf>



Wenvoe

A less intensive approach was taken to community mapping in Wenvoe as there was already some community engagement and some level of mapping undertaken. 91 surveys were completed and some open events took place as part of the process. The majority of the respondents stated that the play area and parks were either excellent or very good. However when asked what the priority was for the area in relation to improvements, the second highest response (49%) was to renew the play equipment and improve access to Grange Avenue Play Area and Twyn-Yr-Odyn play areas. These improvements will shortly be undertaken as S106 funding has been successfully secured. A consultation process has also been undertaken with the community as part of the S106 process.

The link for the Wenvoe Engagement Report is below:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Regeneration/Rural%20Regeneration/Wenvoe-Community-Mapping-engagement-report-web.pdf>

Rhose

Drop in sessions, stakeholder mapping workshops and a survey (185 responses) was undertaken as part of the mapping exercise in Rhose. This highlighted that 21% stated their use of play areas had increased over the last 12 months, 12% had decreased and 24% had stayed the same. The changes related to the children growing older so some children stopped using play areas as they felt they were now too old, whilst others were now old enough to benefit from accessing them. A number of respondents disliked the local parks, particularly the play areas as they felt they were in need of updating. Some respondents indicated that they went to parks outside of the area due to the poor condition of the parks in Rhose. When asked what could be improved in Rhose the responses included improving the parks, play areas, the provision of a MUGA and generally improving provision for young people. Since the community mapping exercise was completed, S106 funding has been secured which will be used to refurbish Celtic Way play area and undertake a smaller scale refurbishment at Stewart Road play area.

Consultation Undertaken by Town & Community Councils & Local Communities

Through this assessment process and through liaison as part of the allocation of the Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding, information has been received regarding consultation undertaken by Town & Community Councils which highlights comments linked to play and local play preferences. Examples of feedback received are below.

Villages of Graig and Penllyn

Over a 12 month period, the Graig and Penllyn Village Development Plan: In our Village 2017-21 was created using community feedback. As a result of this the PlayScape project was developed, the main aim of which is to re-establish the Winchfield Play area as a key community asset. The development of the Winchfield recreational area has been subject to open public meetings (with 100+ people in attendance) with debate over access, use and future direction. Children and parents have been consulted. The result of this is community support and fund raising efforts for the installation of play area equipment.

The village have created the concept of Innovation in Local Asset Linking - the aim is to project the play area within their offering of the recreational, educational, relaxation and community assets (the Winchfield, the Parish Field, the Village Wells and Village Hall).

They have undertaken events that deliberately link all four assets for both residents and visitors (e.g. the 2018 Scarecrow Hunt that raised over £500 for the play area). They firmly believe that the resilience of their community is by mutual recognition of the needs of all age groups. The community have been proactive in fundraising efforts to purchase new play equipment for the area and have also been successful in securing funding through the Welsh Government All Wales Play Opportunities funding 2018 – 2019.

Penarth Town Council

Recent public consultation highlighted the need for more activities for children and young people across many of Penarth Town Council sites. This consultation included feedback from Penarth Youth Action, and feedback from local school children who wanted to see support for increased play provision for children and young people.

The consultation highlighted that despite its poor condition, the Pembroke Terrace play area remains a popular site for residents within the St. Augustine's ward. However there was an identified need to improve and increase play provisions at the site to extend the type of play undertaken. There were also elements of the park identified which actively discourage visitors to the park such as graffiti and broken borders to the different areas. Therefore a project proposal was submitted and successfully received funding via the Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding to purchase additional equipment and rectify the negative areas identified. It is hoped these changes will increase local confidence in the site with regards to the delivery of a safe, accessible space for play and will lead to continued and increased usage of the site.

Llangan Community Council

Llangan Community Council has inputted into the PSA process, providing information and comments based on its knowledge of the play areas and open spaces within the ward of Llangan, St Mary Hill and Treoes. This information has been collated following feedback received from local residents through a community survey which was conducted by the Community Council and from knowledge of issues which have been raised with councillors and discussed at community council meetings in recent years. These highlighted:

- the high use and importance that residents in the area place on play areas and open spaces and the need to improve the equipment, safety and access to these spaces.
- recent housing development at Timbers Green has increased the number of children in the area. Future housing developments (Llangan School, Pentre Meyrick) will increase the number still further. Therefore improvements in play area provision are needed to meet the increased demand.
- the villages of Llangan, St Mary Hill and Treoes are very rural areas at the Western end of the Vale of Glamorgan. It is felt that consultation should take place with residents on the particular issues and needs that they have with respect to play areas, their provision and maintenance in this rural location.
- Llangan Community Council would like support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in maintaining other open spaces which are used for play, for example, Treoes Moors. They would also like consideration for re-deploying land for play areas when they arise, for example, the traveller site in Llangan when it becomes available.
- there is no supervised play provision provided or supported by the council, other than the out-of-school club at Llangan Primary School. Llangan Community Council believes that the Local Authority could be more proactive in offering support for

supervised play provision within the Llangan area as the community survey has indicated a need for activities for older children, such as a Youth Club and opportunities for children to play sports in the area. Currently, children have to travel to Cowbridge or Bridgend or even further afield to participate in these activities but children have limited access to them because there is no public transport for them to use. It has been highlighted by residents that the Green Links bus is not a suitable alternative due to the availability and timing of the bus.

- despite there being demand, it is a challenge for the Community Council in finding providers who are willing to provide services in their rural community.
- there are no play areas or managed open spaces for the children of Llangan. They can only access the play areas in Fferm Goch and Treoes if they travel by car. There are no footpaths, pavements or cycle tracks to enable them to access the play areas any other way. The Community Council is not aware of any plan to improve the walking and cycle access to the play facilities in the area. This has been highlighted as a problem by residents in the local community survey.
- Within the villages, children are prevented from having safe access to the play areas due to the hazards presented by the volume and speed of the traffic travelling through the villages. Llangan Community Council have brought this to the attention of the Local Authority on several occasions in the past and it was highlighted again as an issue in the community survey. The lack of safe access to the play areas which are available is a major obstacle to their use. The speed of traffic in the vicinity of the play areas is also a major concern to parents.
- There are no 20 mph zones in this area. Residents would like to see 20 mph zones and evidence is included in the community survey. The Community Council is not aware of any plans to introduce speed reduction measures (such as 20 mph zones) or safe crossing points in the area, e.g. from Red Farm to Fferm Goch. The Community Council believes there is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed in all the villages and to improve road safety which will significantly promote the use of play areas.
- the local primary school is fortunate in having safe, enclosed, open play areas for the school children and the children are encouraged to play outdoors. They have recently had new play equipment installed with money raised from various sources including donations and PTA fund raising.
- the school encourages children to walk or cycle to school where it is safe but the lack of footpaths, pavements and cycle paths in the area means that this is not a safe option for most pupils.
- the play area in Treoes is old and in disrepair. There is no suitable play area in the village of Llangan itself. The Community Council recognises that the new play area in Fferm Goch has been designed with safety in mind, although its proximity to a main road with heavy and speeding traffic is still a concern to many residents who are wary of allowing their children to play there until there are significant traffic calming measures in place. The same would be true if there was a play area in Llangan and of the open spaces used for play in Treoes.

The above information has been forwarded onto the respective teams within the Vale of Glamorgan Council in relation to the parks, concerns regarding the speed of traffic and the lack of footpaths.

Consultation with Disabled Children and Young People, and their Families

There is ongoing consultation undertaken with disabled children, disabled young people and their families through the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme. Consultation is carried out during each school holiday to assess the success of the provision but also to ensure that the project is meeting the needs of both families and disabled children / young people. This consultation has been used to shape the provision and feedback has been actioned e.g. CIW registration was obtained following demand for full day provision during school holidays from the families. Ongoing monitoring and feedback is required as part of the funding agreement with Families First and the CIW regulations.

The families of some disabled children and young people have highlighted the difficulties they face in accessing the equipment at local parks. Many play areas are being upgraded as a result of accessing funding via avenues such as S106 funding. The inclusivity of these designs are considered at the planning stage. However families are still experiencing difficulties with accessing equipment. They have indicated that whilst it is positive that inclusive pieces of equipment are provided within new designs, these are often limited to one or two pieces per play area so they have to travel to different parks to access the full range of equipment available. However it is positive that this issue is recognised and where funding allows, more inclusive equipment is being secured. The Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding has assisted the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Councils with purchasing inclusive and sensory equipment to place into play areas. The issue of families having to travel to different parks to access play equipment has been recognised by Ysgol Y Deri who has undertaken a pilot to open up their inclusive playground to all families of disabled children and young people afterschool and during holidays. This has been further supported through funding obtained via the Welsh Government All Wales Play funding to increase the amount of inclusive equipment available within the schools' outdoor spaces. This project is highlighted further in this document.

Section 4: Maximising resources

This section should provide an overview as to how partners currently use their existing budgets to support children's access to play opportunities. It should identify how budgets have been reprioritised as part of the 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2016 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated. Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2016 play sufficiency assessment:

The council is currently undertaking a major budget review as part of its future Service Delivery plan. This initiative, known internally, as the Big Conversation 2 is due to be concluded during Spring 2019 and will set out both the priorities and challenges facing the Local Authority over the next five years and will be used as the foundation for the new Corporate Plan which will be produced later in the year. Until these matters are concluded it is difficult to give any certainty to resources the Council has planned for play. Like all authorities in Wales the Council is concerned about the delivery of future services when resources are constantly being reduced but is aware of the importance of play and it is hoped that suitable resources will be allocated.

Since 2016 budgets as a whole within the Vale of Glamorgan have come under significant scrutiny to ensure the Council is obtaining the best value for the services it is providing. Play has been no exception to this but a major reshaping exercise did to a large extent protect existing play resources and Officers continue to work with partners to ensure that play provision is provided in the Vale of Glamorgan.

As was the case when completing the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment, the Vale of Glamorgan Council continues to provide core funding to employ a Principal Healthy Living Officer (previously known as the Sports & Play Development Manager), part of whose role involves leading on the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Local Authority also part fund a Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play), previously known as the Play Development Officer. The remainder of this post is funded via the identification of short term funding sources and through the recharge for the services provided by the Senior Healthy Living Officer, who also has a delivery role.

It is acknowledged that financial resources for play are limited within the current economic climate, therefore there has been a focus on internal Council departments and external organisations working together to maximise the financial, physical and staffing resources available. The resources shared are not just financial resources – they include the sharing of training, facilities, specialist play equipment and specialist disability equipment. The Council has a pool of equipment to facilitate a range of play types such as outdoor play, water play and arts and crafts which are available to organisations and communities at no cost to use at play sessions and events. Equipment that promotes the inclusion of disabled children and young people into play opportunities is also available for free hire. The pooling of resources has proved successful, as shown throughout this document with successful projects being delivered in conjunction with partners including Town & Community Councils, identified schools, Families First partners and internal departments including the Family Information Service, S106 Officer and the Events team. It is acknowledged that

whilst this approach to development and delivery of activity is not as strategic as ideally desired, it has allowed much needed activities to take place, where no activity would have otherwise taken place due to budget restrictions. The comment below from the Family Information Service highlights some of the partnership working that has taken place:

'We work closely with the Play Development Officer and wider team to jointly arrange events for children and their families. For example our FIS Xmas Party, Ysgol Y Deri and Picnic and Play events wouldn't have been able to run without the input and support of the team. Our Index Officer also works closely with the Healthy Living Officer (Play) to ensure that parents of children with additional needs are aware of the disability playscheme and the Healthy Living Officer (Play) ensures that families sign up to the Index of Children with Disabilities or Additional Needs.'

There has been positive joint working taking place to support the opportunities for disabled children and young people to access play provision. There are many partners involved including the play section of the Healthy Living Team, the Family Information Service, Family Around the Child Team, Children & Young Peoples Services, Specialist Health Visitors and Vale People First. These partners are sharing both financial and physical resources to maximise opportunities available. The provision of full-day playscheme and Teenscheme provision during school holidays has been used as a mechanism for providing respite for families of disabled children and young people, which has been supported through the Families First Disability Strand budget. Further funding has also been secured through the Out of School Grant funding stream to support additional playscheme provision at the Families First Holiday Club. The feedback from the parents, children and young people who use these schemes has been extremely positive and identifies a clear need for this provision to continue. It is evident that this project has cross cutting benefits, not only providing enjoyable, accessible play opportunities for the children and young people, but also supporting the work of statutory services such as Social Services.

The Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Living Team has continued to engage with some Town & Community Councils to facilitate local play opportunities. Both the Healthy Living Team and the Town and Community Councils have pooled financial and other resources to enable Family Fun Days, playscheme and Play Ranger sessions to take place in Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major, Penarth and Wick. Whilst it is acknowledged that this has not produced an even distribution of play opportunities across the Vale of Glamorgan, it has allowed much needed activities to continue where no activity would have taken place due to limited resources. S106 funding has also been secured in areas of Barry and Penarth to support the delivery of Family Fun Days and Play Ranger sessions.

There continues to be support from the Planning Department to ensure that where consultation identifies the need, S106 funding is invested in play by improving community assets such as fixed play areas, sports facilities and open play spaces. There have been many examples of this investment since the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment which are highlighted throughout this document.

There have also been many opportunities to implement low cost / no cost actions which have positively impacted on play opportunities. These include raising awareness regarding the benefits of play and promoting more community use of the free natural resources that the Vale has to widen the types of play experiences children, young people and families undertake.

Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding

The Local Authority has embraced the funding made available by the Welsh Government to increase and improve play opportunities. They have ensured that external partners have also benefited from this additional financial resource to maximise the impact across the Vale communities. Many internal Council departments and external organisations have been involved in projects that have been supported through the funding. These include:

- Healthy Living Team (formerly the Sports & Play Development Team)
- Barry Town Council
- Community Investment Team
- Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
- Dinas Powys Community Council
- Family Information Service
- Gibbonsdown Childrens Centre
- Gladstone Primary School
- Glamorgan Voluntary Services
- Graig & Penllyn Residents Association
- KeyCreate
- Llandow Village Hall
- Llanmaes Community Council
- Llantwit Major Town Council
- Menter Bro Morgannwg
- Murchfield Community Association
- Neighbourhood Services Team (formerly the Parks & Open Spaces Team)
- Oshi's World
- Parish of Penarth & Llandough
- Penarth Town Council
- Penllyn Community Council
- Recreate Cardiff & the Vale
- Seren Gwyrdd Community Play
- St Athan Saints
- Vale Homework Club
- Vale People First (Teenscheme Project)
- Wick Community Council
- Youth Service
- Youth Wellbeing Team
- Ysgol Y Deri Special School

Despite the short timescale in which this funding had to be spent, the projects implemented have been a success, and this success was made possible by the strong partnership working between various internal departments and external organisations involved.

A large proportion of the funding was used to purchase various pieces of play equipment and resources that have and will continue to benefit across a number of projects and will have a lasting legacy. This equipment includes outdoor play equipment, sensory play equipment and role play equipment, all of which encourage children and their families to play together. There was also a focus across the projects on encouraging children and

their families to play in their communities, which will hopefully lead to greater community cohesion and respect. The funding was also used to contribute towards purchasing fixed play equipment, and complimented funding already secured through avenues such as Section 106 funding. Below are examples of how the funding has been used.

- Purchase loose parts for use at playschemes and events delivered by the Healthy Living Team and other partners including community organisations. The benefits include an increased awareness amongst families, children and young people of the value of utilising loose parts and recycled products to support low cost /no cost play activities.
- Purchase of fixed play equipment placed in parks identified through the improvement plan for fixed play areas, including those within the rural Vale to assist in overcoming barriers to play experienced in rural areas. Parks have included St Brides, Ystrad Owen, Ceri Road Rhoose, Cosmeston Park Play area, Trebeferad Llantwit Major and Seel Park Dinas Powys. Twyn Y Odyn Park in Wenvoe will shortly also benefit from some of this equipment. Where possible, inclusive equipment has also been purchased, although there were limitations to this due to the criteria that no single piece of equipment could cost more than £5000 and the limited timeframe for delivery meant that stock items had to be ordered.
- To support the costs of delivering some Play Rangers, Playscheme and Play events.
- Two staff members who work at the Families First Holiday Club (disability playscheme) were able to attend a 'Working Positively with Autistic Children' course. This proved extremely beneficial as there is an increasing number of children with autism who would like to attend play provision. The course has increased the knowledge of the staff members, who filtered the information to other staff within the scheme ensuring they are able to provide for the specific needs of the autistic children who wish to participate in the provision.
- The purchase of play equipment to facilitate play opportunities for children in the Western Vale who were accessing activities delivered by the Vale Homework club and the St Athan Saints community group.
- The purchase of specialist play equipment for disabled children and young people attending projects such as the Cwtch Club, Oshi's World, Teenscheme, Families First Holiday Club and Ysgol Y Deri. This included specialist equipment such as chariot bikes which has made it possible for children to participate in an activity together and for children who may not be able to cycle a bike to still experience the thrill of being on a cycle.



- The purchase of specialist equipment to support the inclusion of children with high support needs into play provision. A number of children require assistance with personal care therefore equipment such as hoist slings and changing items such as PVC aprons, gloves and slide mats were purchased. P Pods” which are specialist seating designed for children with cerebral Palsy were also purchased. This equipment is available for free use by all organisations in the Vale of Glamorgan.



- The purchase of Migloo package to facilitate outdoor play amongst disabled children and young people. The Migloo system enables children with a wide range of complex needs to access outdoor play opportunities by providing access to a mobile hoist and portable changing facility. This system is held by Ysgol Y Deri.
- The purchase of an Outdoor Beach Wheelchair to enable disabled children from Ysgol Y Deri to access play on the beach.



- The production of an information booklet for the parents / guardians of service users of the Families First Holiday Club.
- The expansion of the on-site specialist, outdoor play provision at Ysgol Y Deri Special School, to provide year round, open-access facilities for all children with additional needs and their families within the Vale and surrounding communities. Families are able to access these facilities out of school hours. The project also provides access to on-site hygiene and toilet facilities.
- The purchase of the Widgets computer package to enable the Vale Councils Healthy Living team to support children who attend the Families First Holiday Club scheme who have communication needs.
- The attendance of Healthy Living staff at the PSA Conference in Wrexham to increase their knowledge around the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and future actions that can be implemented to increase / improve provision.

- The creation of an Events Kit to support the delivery of play events. This has enabled the purchase of an inflatable structure which can be used at events to protect participants from the elements (both sun and rain). Also enabled the purchase of tables, chairs, leaflet holders and two foldable carts, to assist with transporting the heavier items of play equipment. This equipment is available for use by all organisations in the Vale of Glamorgan.



- To raise awareness of the benefits of play and the different play types available. This has been done through a variety of methods including:
 - the creation of A1 picture boards illustrating different play opportunities which are displayed at events, conferences, Family Fun Days etc
 - the use of printed resources produced by Play Wales distributed to the public
 - the use of printed resources produced by Play Wales distributed to organisations and professionals whose decision making can impact on a child's ability to play.
- The expansion of Outdoor Play Opportunities through the purchase of a variety of outdoor play and Forest Schools equipment, along with a large storage container in which to securely store the equipment at Romilly Park, Barry. The equipment is being used to deliver sessions based on the Forest School principles, delivering play based Forest Fun sessions. Activities include, cooking, rope work, shelter building, making fires, learning about the environment, connecting with nature as well as giving the participants the opportunity to experience free play outdoors using natural materials e.g. mud kitchen, loose parts, den building, tree-climbing and arts and crafts. These activities have been delivered as a partnership between the Vale Healthy Living Team and a local organisation, Seren Gwyrdd. The equipment is also available for use by other organisations within the Vale who wish to increase exposure to outdoor play activities. As well as being used in sessions delivered to the general public, the equipment is also being used to deliver sessions to home educated children who may otherwise not have the opportunity to access such activity.
- Increasing young people's access to youth and play provision in rural areas through the creation of 'play boxes' which are provided to community run clubs containing a variety of equipment that could be stored within a box.
- Using play as a therapeutic tool to support identified children (and their parents) from Gladstone Primary School (Barry) who have high ACE scores, are affected by trauma, are affected by insecure attachments or have behavioural issues.

- The creation of an Interactive Tree Trail at Romilly Park, Barry which is an exciting resource that will encourage outdoor activity for many years to come. The free trail will introduces all ages to the wide and interesting variety of trees that are planted within the park, whilst also providing a fun, outdoor play experience that encourages and promotes physical exercise in the outdoor environment. The trail requires users to explore and collect points around the trail. It identifies trees of significant botanical or historical interest within the confines of the park. These trees are linked together via an AR trail to form a route to encourage children and adults to discover more about the trees and their surroundings.



- The purchase of equipment to facilitate play opportunities delivered by Palmerston Out of School Club.
- The purchase of play equipment to be used by the Family Information Service and partners at Family Fun Days and events.



- The purchase of Forest Schools equipment for use at Gibbonsdown Children's Centre (in a Communities First area). As a result of this project, they have been able to create a safe outdoor, natural play area which they are using on a daily basis.
- To increase sensory and soft play opportunities for disabled children and their families / carers in the Llantwit Major area of the Vale of Glamorgan through the purchase of relevant equipment to be located in the newly created Community Wellbeing Hub.

- The facilitation of play opportunities for children and young people involved in the Youth Well-being project, facilitating those who are experiencing well-being issues to access opportunities in a environment where they feel safe and confident to do so.



- Encouraging outdoor play opportunities in the soon to be created Community Garden & Children's play area in Margaret Avenue, Colcot, Barry through the purchase of relevant outdoor play equipment.
- Increase play provision delivered through the medium of Welsh by supporting Menter Bro Morgannwg to deliver additional open access playschemes during school holiday and to purchase play equipment for use during schemes and events.

As highlighted above, the Vale of Glamorgan have effectively utilised the funding available through the Welsh Government Play grant. Many of the projects funded through this stream assisted with furthering actions identified in the Play Actions Plans and contributed to progressing shortfalls identified in the PSA process. However the limited timeframe in which to spend this funding and the limitations on what the funding can be used for meant that it was not always possible to spend the funding on priority projects thus limiting the full potential impact. This was particularly relevant in relation to the delivery of training for playworkers. The funding was available for spend between January and March. However a large percentage of the play workforce in the Vale are employed on a seasonal basis via a recruitment agency outside of this timeframe. They were therefore not available to attend training. Further funding from the Welsh Government would be welcomed. However it is noted that the funding could be more effectively used if there was a longer timeframe in which to plan and spend the funding.

Moving forward, the recent announcement of the Children and Communities Grant has highlighted the need to develop play further within local authorities. It is hoped that this funding stream will provide financial assistance and encourage a strategic direction that will benefit the development of more play opportunities in the Vale. Relevant individuals are currently liaising regarding this funding stream and discussing how to ensure that maximum impact and resources can be obtained to benefit increased and sustainable play developments. It is hoped this funding will assist in increasing the play services staffing infrastructure in the Vale of Glamorgan to increase capacity to develop more opportunities.

The limited availability of core funding for play within the Vale of Glamorgan continues to be an issue and will continue to be until consideration is given to the longer term funding of play. Despite this, play programmes have been administered by the Council and funded through various sources. The relevant Council Officers are also proactively working with partners and local communities where there is interest to facilitate them in increasing local play opportunities. This is recognition of the positive impact that play programmes and schemes have within communities. As identified in the previous PSA, the challenge moving forward still remains the identification of funding that will allow a more strategic approach to the development of play opportunities.

Section 5: The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

This section should identify how the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment and to what extent the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are integrated into the Well-being Plan and Public Service Board.

As set out in Matter A later on this document, work to deliver play opportunities is being progressed through a number of different policy agendas, most notably, through the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan and the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board's Well-being Plan. Through inclusion in these high level policy documents, it is ensured that the importance of play is recognised and that within the Local Authority, it informs the development of all relevant policies and strategies.

In addition to the inclusion of the partnership actions to deliver play opportunities set out within the Public Service Boards' Well-being Plan, which are listed in Matter A, the Public Service Board is taking forward work with the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales to take forward a children's rights centred approach. Building on work undertaken by the Future Generations Commissioner and the Children's Commissioner for Wales the Vale PSB will be a pilot for a 'Rights Way' approach; with a Public Service Board workshop planned. This work will further aid the Public Service Board in taking account of the economic, social, cultural and civil circumstances specific to children and young people. It is hoped that through this work the Public Service Board will be able to build on its commitments to play made through the Well-being Plan and to ensure that through this work it prioritises the well-being of children and young people across the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Local Authority continues to recognise the importance of play and this is highlighted through its Corporate Plan, 2016-2020. The Corporate Plan sets out a number of Well-being Outcomes and Objectives through which the Council will work towards delivering its vision of 'strong communities with a bright future'. Specifically within the Plan, the Council has set out its Well-being Outcome 4, to deliver an Active and Healthy Vale. Through this Outcome, the Local Authority have worked to deliver play and activity opportunities across the Vale of Glamorgan. This continues to be a priority for the Local Authority. Progress on the delivery of the plan is reported annually, and based on progress reports further opportunities are then identified for play opportunities across the Vale.

In addition to the Local Authority's Corporate Plan, in 2016 the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board undertook a Well-being Assessment, looking at detailed qualitative and quantitative data and research to construct a picture of life across the Vale. In response to the data presented, in the Well-being Assessment the Public Service Board has identified a number of priorities that it will work towards over the next five years. Set out within the Plan, the Public Service Board has made a commitment to improving the well-being of children and young people. Throughout the Plan the Public Service Board has made commitments to develop play opportunities in the Vale. Specifically, as one of its four Well-being Objectives set out in the Plan, the Public Service Board has made the commitment to 'Give children the best start in life'. Supporting this Objective and across the four Objectives, the Public Service Board has set out a number of actions through which it will work to deliver play opportunities in the Vale, these include:

- Consider how we can improve the environment to support and encourage outdoor play and active travel in some of our more deprived areas through transport improvement schemes and street closures for play.
- Develop a more strategic and innovative approach to improving parenting skills, linking activities to play and the natural environment to help reach more people and promote links to the environment and well-being from an early age.

The Public Service Board meet every two months. The Play Sufficiency Assessment will be discussed at a forthcoming Public Service Board meeting as part of the discussions around the Wellbeing objective 'Give children the best start in life'.

Section 6: Monitoring Play Sufficiency

This section should identify the lead director and lead member for children and young people's services. It should also describe the Play Monitoring Group or equivalent. Along with a list of members, please describe how the group has been facilitated and the benefits and challenges of the group.

The Lead Director for play in the Vale of Glamorgan is Mr Miles Punter, Director of Housing & Environmental Services, the Directorate where the play service are currently located. The Lead Member for Play is Councillor Ben Grey who is the portfolio holder for Social Care, Health and Leisure in the Council's Cabinet. Both the lead Director and Lead Member have been briefed on the contents of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Up until this year a Play Monitoring Group was not running as partners felt that the group was not fully productive as it was too broad. Therefore smaller theme based meetings were preferred which fitted the capacity of partners. However during the recent Play Sufficiency Workshop a number of partners identified an interest in being involved with a Play Sufficiency Working Group should one be re-established. It was therefore agreed that a Play Sufficiency Working Group would take place two / three times a year in addition to the individual and theme specific meetings that take place. Representatives from the following Council departments / external organisation are interested in being involved in this group:

- Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team - Healthy Schools & Pre-school programme
- Menter Bro Morgannwg
- Representative from Public Service Board
- Town & Community Councils
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Children's Partnership Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Families First Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Healthy Living Team
- Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service
- Ysgol Y Deri

Other organisations will also be invited to attend. The effectiveness of these meetings will be monitored to establish if they are useful to continue. Part of the role of this group will be to monitor progress on the Play Sufficiency Assessment action plan. As discussed earlier decisions are currently being made as to which committee the Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying action plan will be reported to. The Play Sufficiency Assessment continues to be a standing agenda item at the EYDCP meetings which is a multi-agency network meeting. Where relevant smaller task and finish groups will be responsible for driving forward specific areas of work within the plan.

Section 7: Evidencing the Matter Areas

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. *(In the “RAG status column”, Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)*

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

RAG status

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

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

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

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

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

The Comments section: asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to 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. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data used locally to plan for play provision. Information should also be included regarding:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016?

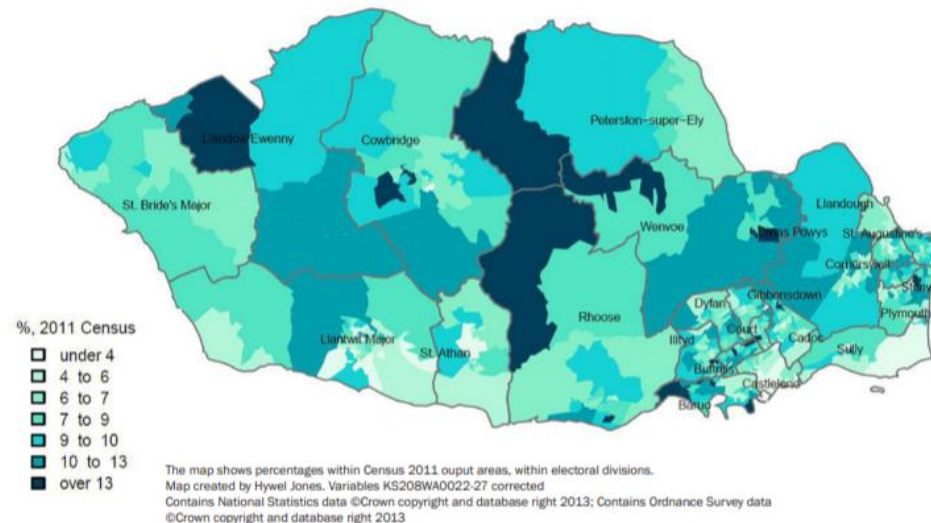
Since the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment was undertaken in 2016, there has been limited change evidenced through the data available to show any meaningful change in the demographic profile of the Vale of Glamorgan. Based on the mid-year population estimates of 30th June 2017 (based on 2011 Census data) 130,690 people live in the Vale of Glamorgan; of these 18.5% (24,177) are aged between 0-15 years. The majority of residents, 60.8% (79,460) are aged between 16 and 64 years.

Forecast population data for the Vale of Glamorgan illustrates that there will be a continued increase in the number of children and young people aged 0-17 over the forthcoming years. An increase from 27,313 in the 2011 Census to 29,250 by 2021 is forecast. It is expected that this trend will continue with the population aged 0-17 reaching 30,300 by 2031. With this increase it is anticipated that there will be increased demand for services, and greater demands to cater for play needs.

In 2011, the number of people aged 3 and above in the Vale of Glamorgan able to speak Welsh was 13,189. This equates to 10.8% of the total population aged 3 and above. The highest proportion of people able to speak Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan are those young people aged 10-14, 35% of whom can speak Welsh. Although the number of people able to speak Welsh in the Vale declined between 2001 and 2011, with the growth in the numbers of young people being able to speak Welsh, it is anticipated that the numbers of people able to speak Welsh will continue to grow. Menter Bro Morgannwg commissioned a Welsh Language Profile of the area. The map below, taken from the language profile, shows where those who are able to speak, read and write Welsh live, with the darker shaded areas showing where the highest proportion of Welsh speakers can be found:

The Vale of Glamorgan
Table: Welsh Language Skills

KS207WA0014 (Can speak, read and write Welsh)



The map indicates that the geographical spread of those able to speak, read and write Welsh is fairly widespread with pockets in the west, east and central parts of the county denoting communities with substantial proportions of Welsh speakers. However it is noticeable that the main area of language density is along the spine of the county which includes many sparsely populated rural communities. The language profile data highlights the four communities with the highest number of Welsh speakers according to the 2011 census are Barry (over 5,000), Penarth (over 2,000), Llantwit Major (1520 then Dinas Powys (777). It would seem therefore that these communities in particular will serve as the main focal points for language activities moving forward alongside other communities that are seeing a growth in Welsh-medium education.

It is estimated that in 2017, 2.4%, 3,100 Vale residents were from a non-white background. Similarly, an analysis of 2011 Census data shows that 6 households and 21 individuals identified as being from the Gypsy and Traveller communities in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is possible however, that this could be an underestimate given the lower than average levels of response to the Census from members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Through the Vale Public Services Board Well-being Assessment undertaken in 2016, it was reinforced that there are areas in the Vale which experience significant disadvantage, including high unemployment, reduced healthy life expectancy, low educational achievement and higher levels of crime. The most deprived areas in the Vale of Glamorgan are found in the eastern areas of Barry and there are also pockets of deprivation in areas of Penarth and St Athan.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 can be used to illustrate differences within our communities. Four of the Vale's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) – Gibbonsdown 2, Court 3, Cadoc 4 and Castleland 1 are ranked within the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales and are all located in the Barry area. These same areas within the Vale of Glamorgan experience deeply entrenched norms of lower educational achievement, lower employment rates and lower incomes. This not only impacts upon our current population but the influence of socio-economic factors in the early years can be crucial in determining the life chances and opportunities of our future generations. Across the Vale, it was estimated that 16.1% of children were living in low income families. The participation in play opportunities can greatly assist with developing skills amongst children and young people, and can be an excellent tool for supporting developments with mental wellbeing. Organisations including Flying Start and Gibbonsdown Children's Centre are involved in the delivery of play opportunities in areas such as Gibbonsdown and Cadoc whilst services such as the Healthy Living Team provide opportunities when resources are available and work with other organisations to facilitate them in delivery of activities.

The percentage population of children and young people living in the Vale of Glamorgan is 19.4%, which is higher than the Wales average of 18.2%. 46 of the Lower Super Output Areas in the Vale have a population higher than the Wales average. 6 of these areas have 25% or more of their population aged 0 – 15 years. These are :

- Gibbonsdown 2: 27.5%
- Gibbonsdown 4: 27%
- St Athan: 26.8%
- Cadoc: 25.8%
- Castleland: 25.8%
- Gibbonsdown 1: 25%

Young carers are not a homogeneous population; they represent children and young people from a variety of backgrounds with diverse experiences. Young carers are described as a 'hidden population' hence the prevalence of young carers may be larger than data sources reveal. Carers Trust Wales found up to 400% more young carers than expected at eight schools in a pilot study. So current estimates of there being 7000 young carers in Wales could be grossly underestimated. It is impossible to know how many young carers there are in Wales, as most remain unknown to school or college staff, and often to friends. The Carers Trust estimates that the average age of young carers is 12. In the Vale of Glamorgan, surveys indicated that 1 in 12 (8%) of pupils in primary or secondary school could be young carers. There will be a link between the number of young carers and the demographic of an aging population and an increase in the number of children surviving with previously life limiting illnesses and disabilities. The Vale of Glamorgan is actively engaging with its schools to raise awareness of young carers and to collect data on their numbers. This initiative is new and not able to provide any meaningful data yet. This is supported by recent changes in Estyn requirements to record the number of young carers in school roles.

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

The anticipated increase in the population in the Vale of Glamorgan, and specifically the increase of young people living in the area will inevitably lead to greater pressure on existing play provision. There will continue to be increased pressure on existing parks, open spaces, amenity greenspace, sport and recreation facilities, where children and young people play. Where resources allow, the Local Authority will continue to maintain these facilities, whether that is directly or as part of a Community Asset Transfer programme which is currently being progressed with some sport and recreation facilities in the Vale. Where funding becomes available through avenues such as S106 funding there are proposals in place to upgrade fixed play areas and parks in identified areas.

The Local Authority continues to recognise the importance of play and this is highlighted through its Corporate Plan, 2016-2020. As identified earlier in this document, the Corporate Plan sets out a number of Well-being Outcomes and Objectives through which the Council will work towards delivering its vision of 'strong communities with a bright future'. Specifically within the Plan, the Council has set out its Well-being Outcome 4, to deliver an Active and Healthy Vale. Through this Outcome, we are working to deliver play and activity opportunities across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Whilst ideally the Local Authority will use the population data to target resources within identified areas of the Vale and towards identified target groups, the limited financial resources available means work is currently more likely to be targeted to areas where funding can be secured e.g. in areas where S106 funding is available, for provision for disabled children, where committed volunteers can be identified and where other resources are available e.g. linked to organisations such as Flying Start.

Please see Matter B in the following section in relation to provision for disabled children and young people.

With the increasing number of children attending Welsh medium schools in the Vale, there is a correlative increase in the number of children and families wishing to undertake leisure activities through the medium of Welsh. This has been highlighted through consultation undertaken by Menter Bro Morgannwg. In response to the Welsh Government's Welsh Language (Wales) Measure the Vale of Glamorgan Council has produced the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. This highlights priority areas including Children, Young People and Families and developing more opportunities for children and young people to use the Welsh language in community and leisure activities. With this in mind, the Local Authority entered into a partnership agreement with Menter Bro Morgannwg in 2016 to provide financial support to enable them to develop new services to strengthen the Welsh language within communities in the Vale. The service areas within this new Framework includes activities for families, childcare, school holiday provision, and sports and play opportunities, including the delivery of open access play sessions during the summer school holidays. Please see Matter B for further information regarding the impact of this programme. Due to the popularity of these sessions, the Local Authority is seeking to extend this partnership agreement for a longer period of time and to expand the provision available to cover more school holidays. Funding was also secured via the Welsh Government All Wales Play funding 2018 / 2019 to deliver open access playscheme during the February 2019 half term through the medium of Welsh and to purchase equipment for use during sessions and events.

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Our%20Council/Equal%20Opportunities/Welsh%20Language/Welsh-Language-Promotion-Strategy-Final.pdf>

[file:///C:/Users/KJDavies/Downloads/Adroddiad%20Menter%20Bro%202018%20English%20WEB%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/KJDavies/Downloads/Adroddiad%20Menter%20Bro%202018%20English%20WEB%20(1).pdf)

In relation to young carers, the Vale of Glamorgan has/is using local data to help raise awareness of young carers with Schools, Governors, Commissioners, Planners and Elected members. Encouraging and supporting schools to identify their young carers will inform individual establishments and Council wide services on the needs of young carers over time.


Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

The previous Play Sufficiency Assessment found that there was a decline in the number of structured play activities offered in the Vale of Glamorgan due to increasing funding pressures across the population. Concerns around funding levels remain. As indicated in the 2013 and 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessments, the anticipated increase in population within the Vale of Glamorgan will inevitably put more pressure on existing play provision, which is already very limited. There will continue to be increased pressure on existing parks, open spaces, amenity greenspace, sport and recreation facilities, where children and young people play. The Vale of Glamorgan Council will continue to consider this as part of their Open Space Assessment / Local Development planning process. It is acknowledged that with the increase in housing developments in areas of the Vale, the population within identified wards and villages are increasing. This in turn leads to an increased demand for services within these areas including children and young people's access to play opportunities. This is an area highlighted by Llangan Community Council who identified that recent housing development at Timbers Green and future housing developments at Llangan School and Pentre Meyrick will increase the number of families with young children moving to the area. They therefore believe that improvements to the play area are needed to meet the increased demand. New building developments usually bring S106 funding opportunities so it is important to ensure that the play needs are considered when this funding is being allocated. The local authority has many positive examples of how they have invested the S106 funding to improve fixed play areas and access to play and open spaces and it is hoped this investment will continue. Please see Matter B in relation to challenges linked to providing play opportunities for disabled children.

Awareness of young carers is starting from a very low base and it is recognised that some young carers may not want to be known as such nor engage with schools/services for a wide range of reasons. The funding to support activities for young carers has relied on Grant funding to date, so is vulnerable to changes in that funding or its purposes. In relation to opportunities for young carers, this can be assisted by continuing to raise awareness and linking in with other initiatives to support children and young people. Such opportunities include accessing lunch time and afterschool sport and physical activity opportunities through the 5x60 project delivered in comprehensive schools to provide extra-curricular activity and linking young carers into the playscheme, Play Ranger sessions and play events that are delivered during school holidays to provide them with access to play and respite from their caring role.

As will be the case across the matters, it is difficult to overcome financial issues. However organisations and internal departments are actively looking at opportunities to work together and share resources (not just financial resources) to work with targeted groups and within identified areas of need.

RAG Status for Matter A

Criteria partially met. 

This has been rated as amber as despite having population data available, it is not always possible to plan and deliver services based on this data. As indicated above the avenues from which funding is identified often dictates where the service can be delivered and who the target audience is.

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

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

RAG Status:

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

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The ongoing assessments of new development proposals, through the planning process will continue to assess play provision and open space provision as a suite of measures required to meet the needs of new residents and assist in meeting the needs of rural communities.</p> <p>There has been progress with upgrading fixed play areas and open spaces in rural communities as a result of collaboration between various organisations / departments including Neighbourhood Services (Parks), Planning, Community Councils, Creative Rural Communities, the Healthy Living Team, local residents and area committees. Funding has been pooled from various sources including S106 funding, Welsh Government Play Funding, Creative Rural Communities funding, Community Council funding and funds raised by</p>	<p>The Councils Neighbourhood Services Team / S106 Officer and Landscape Officer will communicate with Town & Community Councils about fixed play needs but only when funding is identified for a specific area.</p> <p>Consultation is often only undertaken when there is funding available.</p>	<p><i>Increasing the amount of and access to play opportunities in rural areas.</i></p> <p>B1: The Healthy Living Team to work in partnership with Community Councils, residents and other appropriate organisations in rural areas to undertake further consultation regarding the play needs and barriers to play in identified villages.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>local residents. Areas that have been upgraded or are in the process of being upgraded / refurbished include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fferm Goch, Llangan • Colwinston • Badgers Brook, Ystradowen • Lougher Road, St Athan • Ceri Rd Open Space, Rhoose • Celtic Way Tennis Court, Rhoose • Hatch Quarry, Cowbridge Street • Llys Steffan, Llantwit Major • Coastal Path Improvements, Llantwit Major • St Brides Major (due to commence) • St Nicholas School play facilities (due to commence) • Dochdwy Park, Llandough (due for completion) • Trebeferad, Bonvilston • Grange Play Area, Wenvoe (due for completion) • Winchfield Play Area, Penllyn (due to commence) <p>Consultation undertaken as part of the S106 process, Community Mapping process (in Wenvoe, St Athan & Rhoose), through the online survey and individually by some Community Councils and local residents group has helped to raise awareness regarding issues</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that due to the nature of the rural villages there are limited walkways and routes in some areas so accessing open space / play space is more problematic, especially when near a busy road. It is difficult to overcome these issues, however 20mph zones could be considered where appropriate.</p> <p>Issues regarding lack of public transport has been identified in some areas including Llangan. Services such as the demand responsive G1 service runs from Monday to Friday during the day time, however this does not benefit the children who are in</p>	<p><i>Increasing access to play opportunities for disabled children and young people.</i></p> <p>B2: The Index to continue to be promoted to families, and professionals working with families, as a tool to disseminate information and obtain feedback regarding play opportunities for disabled children and young people.</p> <p><i>Increasing access to play through the medium of Welsh</i></p> <p>B3: The Local Authority to continue the partnership with Menter Bro Morgannwg to expand the opportunities available for Welsh medium play provision.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>that are faced in rural areas including lack of / outdated play areas, poor access to transport to get to provision, busy roads and unsuitable / lack of pathways to access play provision and play areas.</p> <p>Community Councils based in the rural Vale and outside of the main towns were provided with the opportunity to contribute to the Play Sufficiency Assessment, some of whom took the opportunity to contribute. Representatives from St Nicholas & Bonvilston Community Council and Llandough Community Council inputted into the PSA Workshop and have shown interest in being involved in future workshops. Feedback was also received from Llangan Community Council as highlighted earlier in the consultation section. Feedback on consultation and issues faced in rural areas have also been received as a result of the availability of Welsh Government Play Funding, which has encouraged dialogue between the Council's Healthy Living Team and some Community Councils / local residents groups, where there was previously no liaison. For example, information has been shared by Graig & Penllyn Community Council / Residents Association regarding the play needs in their area obtained through a local consultation exercise. This was shared as they were interested in accessing the Welsh Government funding. Therefore this funding stream has been</p>	<p>school.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the financial position it is not feasible to fund any additional local bus services or divert existing services to Llangan (where historically numbers using bus services have been low).</p> <p>8 of the wards in the Vale are considered to be rural, covering approximately 80% of the area. This is a large space to consider.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>a useful avenue for increasing awareness regarding the needs in rural areas and also strengthening relationships that impact on children's play.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team has worked with Wick Community Council to deliver Play Ranger sessions during the summer school holidays, with the Community Council providing free access to Wick Pavilion and supporting the staffing costs, whilst the Healthy Living Team provided resources and expertise.</p> <p>During attendance at a Creative Rural Communities workshop, the Healthy Living Team was able to share information regarding the play resources and equipment they have available for free hire to the rural organisations who attended. As a result, rural communities including Corntown and St Hilary have accessed the play equipment free of charge for use at their Family Fun Days / community events.</p> <p>Welsh Government Play funding has recently been secured to purchase play resources for the Rural Play Boxes project. This will provide play equipment to voluntary, community run projects in rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan to increase the access to play opportunities for children, young people and families, particularly young people aged 10 – 14 years. This project</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>is being facilitated in conjunction with the Vale Youth Wellbeing Team.</p> <p>With regard to active travel, any potential improvements will be communicated to the local councillor and agreement sought on schemes before they go ahead. Most of these schemes are funded by Section 106 contributions.</p> <p>Information on supervised play is held on the Dewis Wales database. In the rural Vale there are the following supervised out of school childcare settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 afterschool clubs – 10 registered and 4 unregistered • 18 Breakfast Clubs – 2 registered and 16 unregistered • 14 Holiday Clubs – 4 registered and 10 unregistered <p>With regards to other play related opportunities, these are highlighted on the Dewis website (link below in the comments section).</p>		
	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Since 2016, the Local Authority has had a partnership agreement in place with Menter Bro Morgannwg to provide financial support to enable them to develop new services to strengthen the Welsh language within communities in the Vale. The service areas within this new Framework includes activities for families, childcare, school holiday provision,	There is a need to recognise the importance of Welsh-medium play opportunities for all children – not just those whose first language is Welsh.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>sports and play opportunities, including the delivery of open access play sessions during the summer school holidays.</p> <p>Through the Framework Agreement the following was provided in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 BWRLWM open access play sessions at Victoria Park (Barry), Bear Field (Cowbridge), Belle Vue Park (Penarth), Romilly Park (Barry) and Llantwit Major Rugby Club with 337 children attending at least one session, and an average of 28 children attending every session. • 10 weekly clubs in partnership with the Urdd Sport Department with over 200 children taking part. • 9 weeks of Holiday Childcare at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. This is the only full day childcare provision available through the medium of Welsh during school holidays in the Vale, and therefore provides an important service which allows parents to continue to work during school holiday periods and for the children to continue to speak Welsh outside the school term. An average of 22 children attended every day. • Holiday workshops in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College during school holidays including Hair & Beauty Workshops and Netball Camps. 	<p>In the Vale, nearly 90% of children currently in Welsh-medium education come from bilingual or non-Welsh speaking homes, and it's crucial that this is acknowledged and taken into consideration when identifying gaps and planning provision for the future. As well as providing valuable social and play opportunities, these children require this support to develop their linguistic skills, especially during school holiday periods where they might not get many more opportunities to hear or speak Welsh.</p> <p>We should be providing the same opportunities in both Welsh and English, without singling out</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 weekly Amser Stori (Storytime) sessions in partnership with the Vale’s Libraries – with over 100 families attending over the last year. • 6 nature trails at locations including Porthkerry Country Park, Penarth Beach, Cosmeston and Barry Island – with 30 families attending these sessions in 2018. <p>Due to the popularity of these sessions, the Local Authority is seeking to extend this partnership agreement for a further period of time. Funding is also being sought to extend the provision to more school holidays. Funding was secured via the Welsh Government All Wales Play funding 2018 / 2019 to deliver open access playscheme during the February 2019 half term and to purchase equipment for use during sessions and events.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team encourage Welsh speaking individuals to join their playwork team. Those individuals who are Welsh speaking are identifiable to the children to encourage them to converse through Welsh if desired. Discussions have recently taken place between the Healthy Living Team and Menter Bro Morgannwg to establish opportunities for future partnership working.</p> <p>Flying Start are working in partnership with organisations including Mudiad Meithrin to deliver Ti a Fi sessions which provide families</p>	<p>or concentrating only on one specific target audience (such as the play requirements of “first language Welsh speaking children”).</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>with young children the opportunity to play and learn through the medium of the Welsh language whilst having fun and meeting new people. This is open to both Welsh and non-Welsh speaking families. Activities include arts and crafts, water and playdough, songs, rhyme and stories.</p> <p>See Matter A for further information relating to the Vale's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.</p>		
	<p>The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for</p>	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Activities delivered within open access play provision celebrate all cultures providing participants with a wider understanding of the cultures within their communities. Toys covering the diversity of children within the Vale are available at playschemes and events including role play costumes, dolls and children's books covering diversity. These are available for use by external organisations as well through the Equipment Loan Scheme managed by the Vale Healthy Living team.</p> <p>Representative from Healthy Living Team attends the Equalities Forum so any relevant areas for development can be identified via this group.</p>	<p>There has been no specific consultation undertaken with children from different cultural backgrounds in relation to access to play opportunities.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Play section of the Healthy Living Team deliver the Families First Holiday Club (playscheme) for disabled children aged 4 – 11 years during the school holidays. In 2018 this scheme was successful in achieving CIW registration. This was a long process but now enables full day provision to be provided. Up until early 2018, the Healthy Living Team also delivered the Teemscheme provision prior to this being handed over to Vale People First. The Teemscheme provision is delivered during school holidays to disabled young people aged 12– 18 years. Both projects are funded through the Disability Strand element of the Families First funding stream. Both of these projects undertake regular consultation with the participants and their families to ensure the provision is meeting their needs and is enjoyable.</p> <p>All disabled children attending these schemes have a Helpful book completed by their parent / guardian, which identifies their individual abilities and needs. Nursing care, personal care and 1:1 / 2:1 / buddy support is provided where required. Specialist equipment such as hoists and changing beds, in addition to specialist play equipment such as sensory equipment and adapted cycles are available to support all children to access play provision.</p>	<p>Feedback has been received from some families regarding accessible equipment at local parks. They recognised that inclusive equipment has been placed in some parks and saw this as positive. However as there is usually only one piece of inclusive equipment they have to travel to different parks for the children to access different pieces of equipment. They would prefer one park which contains more pieces of accessible equipment rather than lots of parks with 1 individual piece of equipment.</p> <p>There is only one person employed by the Vale Council in</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The play section of the Healthy Living Team, Vale People First, Child & Health Disability Team, Disability Index Team, staff from the Families First team, Ygsol Y Deri, FACT team & Special Needs Health Visitor work in partnership to ensure the provision is appropriate for individual needs and promoted to the relevant families. There is a positive relationship between the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme to facilitate transition between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Local Authority hosts regular meetings which are attended by multi agency professionals who have an impact on the delivery of the Disability Strand element of the Families First programme. Play is a standard agenda item and the specific needs and future provision for disabled children are discussed as part of this agenda item.</p> <p>The demand for places at the Families First Holiday Club is extremely high, which has resulted in the need to limit the number of children who can attend per session due to limited funding to cover staffing costs / staff capacity. Additional one off funding was secured through Out of School Grant to increase school holiday provision through the Families First Holiday Club in 2018 – 2019 period.</p>	<p>relation to the delivery of play (Senior Healthy Living Officer, Play). This Officer is responsible for the organisation of the Families First Holiday Club to ensure access to playscheme provision for disabled children. This includes the administration of the Families First Holiday Club which is a large task as it is essential that the individual needs of each child is accounted for. The Officer is also involved in the delivery at the Holiday Club. This causes capacity issues when also needing to cover other areas of play within the role. Therefore there is a</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>During the period April 2017 – March 2018 91 disabled children and young people accessed playscheme and Teenscheme provision during the school holidays. Of those that attended :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 children/young people were supported with personal care • 9 children/young people were provided with nursing care • 6 children/young people were provided with both personal care and nursing support • 44 children/young people received 1:1 or 2:1 support • 17 families received assistance with transport (partway through financial year 2018 – 2019 this element of the service ceased) <p>In the summer of 2017 12 family sessions were offered to provide an opportunity for the families of disabled children to play together within a supported environment. Whilst attendance was low, the feedback from those who did attend highlighted the benefit they received from being supported to play together. This also provided a useful avenue for consulting with the families.</p> <p>The Out of School Childcare Grant Assisted Places scheme offers opportunities to disabled children, those with additional needs and children in need to attend supervised out of school / holiday provision. Assisted places</p>	<p>need to build capacity within the team in this area. With the exception of the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play), all other staff delivering on the Families First Holiday Club are recruited via an employment agency. This often results in a lack of continuity of staff, which is not ideal when working with disabled children. It is essential that staff have the correct skills and knowledge to deliver an effective service to disabled children therefore there is an ongoing need to invest in training for the agency staff.</p> <p>The funding relating to deliver specialist provision to disabled</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>funding has been provided to 145 children during the 2016 – 2019 period. The opportunities have included access for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78 Preschool age children with a disability • 67 School age Children age 3-11 in need and 25 with a disability <p>18 families have participated in the Sense of Play project which provides 1:1 play opportunities for disabled children and their family in their home. This is funded through the Early Years Partnership and is delivered by Flying Start.</p> <p>The Index is a record of children and young people who have disabilities or additional needs, living in the Vale of Glamorgan. By signing up to The Index families will receive regular information about new services, schemes, events and activities, via the quarterly newsletter The Index and regular mail-outs from The Index eNews. The Families First Holiday Club, Teenscheme and other relevant activities are promoted to families in each quarterly newsletter and sent to families and professionals. Parents and carers can also contact the Index Officer for information regarding services and support. The Index gives a clear indication of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs in the Vale,</p>	<p>children currently comes from one source of external funding. If this funding ceases the provision will cease.</p> <p>This has been identified as green as compared to other groups, the provision available to disabled children is quite comprehensive. However this provision is currently limited to school holiday periods so access to provision at other times is limited.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>to help agencies work together to plan better services. The Index is funded by Welsh Government's Families First Grant. An annual Index report is produced which provides rich data about the type of disabilities the children in the Vale of Glamorgan have and highlights useful areas such as the increase in the number of children being diagnosed with autism in the Vale (please see below comments section for a link to this report).</p> <p>All childcare providers known to Vale Family Information Service (FIS) are asked "How confident are you in caring for children with additional needs", along with any recent disability training that has been undertaken by staff. This information is publicly available via the FIS database on Dewis Cymru.</p> <p>All new play area schemes funded via S106 funding and other funding sources endeavour to facilitate inclusive play wherever possible, with this discussed at the consultation stage and written in to all design briefs. Play equipment such as accessible roundabouts have been included in recent designs. S106 funding has also assisted with access improvements into parks e.g. the entrance gates off Everard Street and Bassett Street at Bassett Park, Barry have been improved to provide DDA compliant access for users with mobility difficulties.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>There been investment into the inclusion of disabled children and young people into play provision as part of the Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding stream as highlighted in the earlier Maximising Resources Section.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Deri Special School has undertaken a successful pilot opening up their school playground to families outside of hours. Families also had access to the schools accessible changing and toilet facilities, which is often identified as a barrier to participation in other environments. Families have reported that it has been useful to be able to access a variety of inclusive equipment in one space, as usually they have to travel to different parks as each park usually only has one type/piece of accessible equipment. To expand the availability of inclusive play equipment further, funding has been secured through the Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding to expand the range of equipment available at Ysgol Y Deri. This successful project was highlighted by the BBC as part of their promotion of schools opening up their playground to community use. Play Wales also highlighted this project within their Play for Wales Publication Issue 51. The project will recommence in the spring when there is improved weather conditions.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Through various sources of funding including the Welsh Government All Wales Play Funding and Families First funding, the Local Authority has been able to invest in specialised equipment such as hoists, changing beds and sensory play items to ensure inclusion of disabled children into provision. This equipment is available for use by internal and external partners. This is promoted through various avenues including the Disability Strand meetings and the Index.</p> <p>The Families First Holiday Club takes place at Ysgol Y Deri which is a facility purpose built for disabled children and young people so those attending the Holiday Club are able to benefit from the inclusive resources available within the school.</p> <p>The Families First funding has enabled personal care, nursing support and 1:1 / 2:1 support to be available to disabled children and young people to facilitate their inclusion into provision.</p> <p>Toys covering the diversity of children within the Vale are available at playschemes and events including role play costumes, dolls and children's books covering diversity. These are also available for use by external organisations.</p> <p>E-learning modules linked to disability awareness are available to organisations</p>	<p>Since the previous PSA, there has been a reduction in the amount of mainstream play provision such as playschemes run during school holiday time. When these were previously delivered, disabled children were included within the mainstream provision. However since these have reduced a specialist provision is now run in Ysgol Y Deri for disabled children. Whilst this is very successful, it does mean that some of the children with lower support needs who previously would have attended mainstream provision no longer have the opportunity to do so. Therefore they are restricted in</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>delivering activities to disabled children and young people. Other training courses such as Epi-pen training are in place to ensure that providers are able to offer the necessary support to children with specific conditions.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) has attended training relating to Trauma and Attachment and has fed this information to staff members to benefit the service provision. This training is being rolled out to other services involved in delivery of services to children and young people.</p> <p>Via the Cwch Club, a group of parents were meeting on a regular basis to support each other as well as provide play activities for their children and siblings. They were provided with advice and access to appropriate equipment to be able to facilitate play opportunities with their children who have additional needs.</p>	<p>their opportunities to play alongside their friends in the local community. It is hoped moving forward that funding can be secured to run inclusive schemes where disabled children who do not require additional support or who only require limited support can be included within the provision.</p>	
	<p>There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children</p>	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Please see above in relation to the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme.</p>	<p>The Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme has seen an increase in the number of children and young people with higher support needs requesting access to provision. There is</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>an increase in the number of those with challenging behaviour being referred to both schemes. These schemes are not necessarily appropriate to meet the needs of these children and young people. The staff are not always able to deal with the level of challenging behaviour. However there is currently no other provision available. This is stretching the service available through these schemes and impacting on the provision available to other children as the resources required for children with challenging behaviour is higher.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Monthly play inspections are carried out at parks and play areas. Any access issues that have become apparent since the previous inspection will be addressed. This is also undertaken via the annual, independent play inspection.</p> <p>The accessibility of indoor and outdoor space is considered as part of the organisation process when planning play provision.</p> <p>S106 funding has assisted with access improvements into parks e.g. the entrance gates off Everard Street and Bassett Street at Bassett Park, Barry have been improved to provide DDA compliant access for users with mobility difficulties and dropped kerbs have been installed.</p>	Some feedback has been received regarding uneven surfaces on some pathways whilst travelling to parks and within parks.	
	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	RED	RED	The Vale of Glamorgan Council has not yet adopted a gypsy traveller site. The initial site highlighted was rejected so further investigative work is taking place.		
	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	The authority supports a Young Carers project through Families First funding that includes a regular youth club. The weekly Youth Club will be running through 2019/20. The Project also provides a Young Carers Forum which facilitates discussion and identification of young carers needs and allows them to determine the activities for the Project to deliver. Data relating to young carers in the Vale has also been obtained via the Viewpoint survey. Partners involved in provision of opportunities for young	This is reliant on external funding to deliver activities. Therefore the service is vulnerable should funding reduce or cease.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>carers include YMCA Cardiff. Many of the activities identified are funded via the Respite Grant. To date this has funded activity Holidays as well as sessional activity such as film making. It has also funded transport to the Young carers youth club so that all young carers in the Vale, especially the rural areas, have the opportunity to attend and join in. This will continue to support this area of work in the new year.</p>		
	<p>The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for</p>	RED	RED	<p>No specific work has been undertaken on this area. The Council's equality policy and Equality Impact Assessment process include sexual orientation as a protected group.</p>	<p>Children in Wales run a course entitled 'LGBT & child development'. This has not taken place in the Vale but is an option if there is demand. Providers will be contacted to ascertain if there is demand.</p>	

Providing for Diverse Needs

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

Please see matter A for further information relating to areas including Welsh language.

The data collected through consultation undertaken as part of the S106 process, via the Community Mapping exercises undertaken as part of the Creative Rural Communities project and through consultation undertaken by Town and Community Councils and residents groups have proved useful for supporting applications for funding to improve play spaces in rural communities.

There continues to be positive links between internal departments and external partners involved with disabled children and young people to ensure that wherever possible their needs are catered for in relation to their access to play provision. There is an ongoing relationship and sharing of information between the Healthy Living team, Vale People First, the families of disabled children, Ysgol Y Deri, the Child Health & Disability Team, Families First Officers within the Council and representatives from the Disability Index. This ensures that the changing needs of disabled children are taken into account. In addition to the benefits that disabled children obtain from participating in play, the playscheme and Teenscheme provision delivered during the school holidays also provides respite provision for the families of disabled children. The feedback provided from these families highlighted the value they place on this provision.

The Disability Index has been a valuable tool for not only sharing information with families but also collecting information and feedback from them. The consultation events and group visits undertaken by members of the Index and Family Information Service, alongside the discussions undertaken with families by the Healthy Living Team has provided opportunities for families to discuss their needs and make suggestions to improve the planning and co-ordination of services. This information has assisted with developing needs led services. An annual Index report is produced which provides rich data about the type of disabilities the children in the Vale of Glamorgan have and highlights useful areas such as the increase in the number of children being diagnosed with autism in the Vale. This information again assists with planning. The link to the Index Report April 2017 – March 2018 is below:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Social%20Care/Care/Family-Information-Service/For-Parents-And-Carers/Disability%20Index/The-Index-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>

As a result of data obtained through consultation, the Creative Rural Communities Team have trialled projects to see if they could assist with increasing provision in areas identified as more rural. They funded the Parent and Child Activities Together Project. This involved piloting a range of activities (crafts, exercise / dance, forest school, cooking and circus skills) in 4 communities in the rural Vale (St Athan, Wenvoe, Rhoose and Ystradowen). There was mixed success with this project. The activities which were delivered as one off sessions and were activities that children did not usually have access to e.g. stained glass workshop and Forest Schools, proved more popular than those workshops running on a weekly basis and which children were already taking part in or could access at home e.g. cookery. Creative Rural Communities have also supported Newydd Housing Association to deliver the 'Making Sense of Wellbeing Project' which was funded by LEADER. This piloted a range of activities which encouraged discussions around Health and Wellbeing in Llantwit Major and St Athan. The

activities supported included parent and child cooking, buggy fit and a fit bit challenge at the secondary school. This project has enabled discussions with groups that have been traditionally hard to engage with around their health and wellbeing.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

There has been increasing demand for playscheme spaces for children with more complex needs, autism and challenging behaviour. This puts pressure on the limited resources available. There are challenges with managing expectations amongst some parents who would like their children to access provision across all of the schools holidays. Due to the number who want to access provision and the increasing number of children requiring 1:1 support, each child can only be offered limited spaces. There is also the need to ensure that play staff members have the knowledge and skills to safely and effectively support children and young people with these more complex needs. Staff members who support disabled children with high support needs in educational settings have access to a varied programme of training and support to ensure they have the appropriate knowledge and skills in place. This level of training and support is not available to play staff. Staff members offering play provision during the school holidays need access to that same level of training and knowledge to ensure a smooth transition between the school, home and play setting. This is often difficult as agency staff are used. It is not always possible to retain agency staff so there is the need to deliver ongoing training and mentoring to ensure staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge in place to meet not only the play needs but also the medical and support needs of the children. Whilst this is difficult, it is helpful that there are positive relationships between playstaff and families of disabled children to assist with increasing this knowledge.

There are challenges with managing expectations around accessibility in fixed play. A play area should ideally be fully accessible and inclusive to all. There is a desire and expectation for this to be the case and that each piece of equipment within a park will be fully accessible. However this is currently not achievable with the resources available, although when funding is identified it is essential that this area is fully considered. It is important to engage all interested parties when undertaking consultation and discussions around new provision. It is important to ensure that the views and needs of disabled children and their families are considered. It is also important that there is a greater understanding of what can be achieved with the resources available. Examples of inclusive equipment that have been placed in parks since the 2016 PSA include the following in Wordsworth Park Play Area, Forest Community Play and Hatch Quarry, Cowbridge.



Consultation with local residents has highlighted that there are issues in some villages with access to play space and open spaces used for play purposes. It is acknowledged that due to the nature of the rural villages there are limited walkways and routes in some areas, so accessing open space / play space is more problematic, especially when near a busy road. It is difficult to overcome these issues, however 20mps zones could possibly be considered where appropriate. This will require partnership working between the relevant sections within the Council, the local Town or Community Council and the residents to establish if this is a viable option. This will need to be undertaken on an individual community basis. There is also the option to look at positive signage near busy roads to indicate that children are playing. Again this would need to be approached on an individual community basis and will require relevant permissions.

Issues regarding lack of public transport for those who are not able to walk to provision or who do not have access to their own transport has been raised, particularly for those in rural areas. This is a difficult area to come up with an easy solution and is an issue that not only affects people's access to play but also their access to many services. This is an area that will need to be considered further.

Whilst there is up to date information recorded regarding cultural factors, including children with first language other than English, and gypsy traveller children available on the PLASC system, this information is not readily available to the departments and external organisations involved in the delivery of play.

Comments:

There are examples in the Vale of Glamorgan of projects that are supporting children with different needs other than those identified above in Matter B, to access play opportunities as highlighted below. These examples are using play as a tool to support children with their health and wellbeing:

- The issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) is an important area that is being considered on both a local and national basis across many areas of work including within the play field. Play is an excellent vehicle to assist with positively impacting on health and wellbeing. Welsh Government Funding has recently been secured to enable Gladstone Primary School to purchase toys and resources to use in a purposefully resourced play centre which will form part of a wellbeing suite. This will provide trained staff with the resources to:
 - support vulnerable children to play
 - use therapeutic play as a way of supporting trauma and ACE affected children with emotions and mental health difficulties
 - use therapeutic play as a tool to support children to learn how to express their feelings and regulate their emotions
 - support vulnerable parents in learning about play and how they can play with their children

The Healthy Living Officer (Play) is assisting Gladstone Primary School with developing the play space and providing advice regarding suitable play activities.

- Welsh Government Play funding has recently been accessed to purchase play equipment to be used by the Vale's Youth Mentors who are supporting primary and secondary age pupils who are experiencing well-being issues. Many of these children do not currently have the confidence to attend clubs and mainstream activities. By purchasing the equipment the Youth Mentors will be able to deliver play opportunities within the mentor sessions to enable the children and young people to access provision and also use play as a tool to work through well-being issues. The Healthy Living Officer (Play) will support and mentor the Youth Mentors in the initial delivery of play activities with the aim of them delivering the sessions themselves in the future.
- The Healthy Living Officer (Play) is working with the Youth Wellbeing Team to support children who are not attending school to access outdoor play opportunities through the delivery of a Forest School based programme of activities. As part of this project they are developing an outdoor space at Amelia Trust Farm.

Link to the index webpage:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/social_care/children_and_young_people/children_with_additional_needs/the-index/The-index.aspx

Link to Dewis Wales website:

https://www.dewis.wales/SearchResults.aspx?q=*&loc=&d=&c=20&a=W06000014&f=&t=1&o=&st=-1&nr=1&nip=0&l=

Link to the Play Wales Publication, Issue 51 in relation to article around Ysgol Y Deri playground being opened up for community use:

https://issuu.com/playwales/docs/play_for_wales_autumn_2018_issue_51?e=5305098/66225468

Feedback regarding the Provision offered to Disabled Children

Below are some comments made by the parents of disabled children and young people who have attended the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme provision which demonstrates the value they place on the services and clearly evidences the need for this type of service:

“Words cannot express how much playscheme means to us all! Oli absolutely loves coming and it gives me the chance to have 1:1 time with his sister too. Thank you, thank you, thank you”.

“It was a total lifesaver and we couldn’t be more grateful to Jo who runs the programme who has been kind, welcoming and flexible. Zander enjoys swimming, playing, eating and watching his favourite films whilst at playscheme. Molly his 1:1 is fabulous and Zanders face lights up every morning when he sees her. If it wasn’t for the playscheme I honestly don’t know what I would’ve done”.

The playscheme is fabulous and Hannah has loved every minute and asks to go every day. Hannah loves making things, painting, drawing and everything really. And she loves the staff! We can’t fault any staff at playscheme, Jo Jones is 5!! Overall brilliant, we have to travel a fair way so Hannah can have fun but it’s worth it”.*

Playscheme offers a range of activities in a familiar setting, so is perfect for Grace. Playscheme could be better if transport was available but other than that Grace enjoys coming and it gives me respite with my other daughter. Grace enjoys sensory play, messy play and loves shredded paper. Staff are friendly and approachable”.

“We would be lost without this scheme, Toby does not cope well not going out and due to both him and my 4 year old having special needs I cannot take them places together, so really appreciate him attending playscheme. The staff are fantastic with my son and he likes playing outdoors. We just hope the full days continue”.

“My daughter has benefited so much from attending holiday club, she enjoys going in and is very happy and content coming out. She enjoys painting, the playground and making new friends. Staff are always so happy and helpful, nothing is too much trouble. Many thanks to all the staff and Jo for a well run playscheme, I can see that the children that attend are very happy with their environment including skilful playleaders. Once again another successful year, with heart felt appreciation”.

“I honestly can’t thank each and every one of you enough! Ralphy has loved coming to playscheme, he was able to play football all day and this is his dream. I know he is safe and happy with all of you. It allowed me to have time with Macey because she needs it too. A massive thank you to you all and Jo for being so kind, helpful and positive”.

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

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

RAG Status

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

Open Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	AMBER	The Council's planning department has prepared an open space audit as part of the background evidence to the Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 LDP (Open Space Background Paper November 2013). The audit identifies open space as defined by the typology in the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (Jan 2009), including the type, amount and spatial distribution of recreational and open space available in the Vale of Glamorgan in 'quantitative' terms. The assessment includes GIS plots/layers of all open space areas identified.	<p>The open space audit is only a quantitative assessment of the open spaces within the Vale of Glamorgan and does not include any qualitative information, i.e. play value and play experiences.</p> <p>This dataset has not been fully maintained since its original completion and further work is required to fully update the dataset to</p>	<p><i>Increasing awareness regarding the accessible fixed play equipment in local parks</i></p> <p>C1: Update information on the Council website and the internal record database of all designated play spaces to highlight those play spaces which have inclusive equipment accessible to</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					reflect planning consents granted and implemented since November 2013.	disabled people and those with limited mobility.
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	AMBER	<p>The LA has yet to progress an Accessible Greenspace Study due to lack of resources.</p> <p>While the Council's Open Space Audit included some elements of Accessible Greenspace, it did not cover the full typology as detailed within TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space. The open space study will however provide a basis on which to develop a more detailed Accessible Greenspace Assessment.</p>	<p>No detailed work has been undertaken to date due to lack of resources including staff availability and competing workloads.</p> <p>There is a need for internal Council departments to investigate whether support can be provided to progress the Accessible Greenspace Study.</p>	<p><i>Increasing & improving spaces available for children to play</i></p> <p>C2: Undertake additional qualitative surveys that complement the existing Open Space assessment and also to reflect open space that has been lost and delivered via planning applications since 2013. (this will only take place if additional resources are identified)</p>
	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Areas are regularly assessed and inspected by the Neighbourhood Services team.</p> <p>Proposals for new open spaces associated with new development schemes will be provided in accordance with the Council's adopted standards and accessibility to the sites will be considered through the planning process. Proposals for new development will assess open space availability. This includes access to that space and to assess whether improvements are needed.</p>	Subject to resources, access audits would be carried out to all open spaces.	<p>C3: Undertake a full access audit for all open spaces detailed within the updated Open Space Assessment when completed.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Whilst an access audit has not been undertaken, when implementing new parks, specifically children's equipped play areas, the LA include provisions to ensure that they are fully inclusive and that there are pieces of equipment that can be used by all abilities.		<p>C4: The Councils Neighbourhood Services Team, S106 Officer and Landscape Officer communicate with Town & Community Councils about fixed play needs to aid the process if funding is identified for a specific area through e.g. S106 funding.</p> <p>C5: The implementation of an all-encompassing Asset Management system for neighbourhood Services to ensure improved ability / efficiency in undertaking remaining and continuing access audits.</p>
	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The adopted Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011- 2026 (LDP) includes Policy MD3 – Provision for Open Space which sets out open space standards for new development. The standards have been adopted from the widely accepted Fields in Trust (FIT) benchmark standards as referenced in the Welsh Governments Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space.</p> <p>Whilst the TAN advises that local standards should be based on the results of the open space assessment, the Council considers that the FIT standards are robust and appropriate for the needs of the administrative area and has no proposals to develop its own open space standards to replace those developed by FIT.</p>	The standards adopted from the Fields in Trust are not specific to the Vale of Glamorgan and have not been based on a full open space assessment as detailed in TAN 16.	
	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space	AMBER	AMBER	Play Value Assessments have not been undertaken within the authority at existing parks, due to the lack of resource. However,	Limited resources to complete assessments as required. Shortfall of	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>the Parks Department undertake monthly inspections of parks areas.</p> <p>When implementing new play areas, play value is assessed as part of the tender process.</p> <p>Where relevant the Local Authority will assess unused open space for appropriate use and action for leisure use where relevant. For example the Community Investment Team are currently in the process of regenerating unused open space at Margaret Avenue in Barry to turn it into a community garden and play space. Funding has been secured through the Welsh Government Play funding to purchase (non-fixed) outdoor equipment for this space.</p>	<p>detailed and site specific information.</p>	
	<p>Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>The LA do not assess brownfield sites to provide children's play. The nature of the majority of brownfield sites mean that most, if not all, host some element(s) that would not be conducive to children's play.</p> <p>While it is accepted that some brownfield sites may offer limited potential and/or be used for informal recreation the health and safety implications associated with formalising any use on council owned land would be difficult to overcome.</p>	<p>Lack of resources to undertake an assessment of the recreational potential of brownfield sites within the Council estate.</p> <p>Priority is largely given to the disposal of Council-owned sites in order to release land for housing, rather than alternative uses, given</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The LA does not have the resources to undertake assessments of the play potential of brownfield sites within its ownership.</p> <p>The Council's Property Team routinely considers sites that have been identified as surplus to Council requirements and how best they may be disposed of or re-used. If it is appropriate, the Council requires the next use (e.g. housing development) to incorporate open space as part of their scheme.</p>	the Vale of Glamorgan's acute need for housing identified in the Local Development Plan.	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Neighbourhood Services Team maintain a play database that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds & play areas • Local Areas for play, Local Equipped areas for play & neighbourhood equipped areas for play • Open spaces including seaside open space • Recreation fields – natural & artificial • Multi use games areas • Wheeled play areas 	<p>Database to be improved / upgraded as part of Asset management system thus stream-lining the ability to carry out this data gathering / inspecting.</p> <p>The data collected and included in the Open Space Background</p>	<p><i>Increasing awareness regarding the spaces where children play and making it safer to play</i></p> <p>C6: Investigate the potential to use temporary 'Children Playing' signage in areas where traffic has been identified as an issue.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Shelters <p>The Open Space Background paper (2013) contains information relating to the above areas including the LSOAs they are located within, however this dataset has not been fully maintained and requires updating to incorporate new open space areas that have been developed since 2013.</p>	Paper (2013) is quantitative and not qualitative.	
	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	RED	AMBER	<p>This usually occurs on a project by project basis when an area is either being upgraded or replaced due to funding becoming available. Robust consultation involving all interested parties is carried out.</p> <p>See the box relating to Play Space Assessments.</p>	There is not capacity/resource to assess all open spaces for play value.	
	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The LA has not yet produced an audit of access to all play spaces in terms of ability and disability. However, the safety implications of existing access arrangements are considered as part of the annual safety inspection undertaken by an external independent play inspector and the regular assessments / inspections undertaken by the Neighbourhood Services Team.</p> <p>In terms of safety, an annual safety inspection is undertaken at all outdoor designated play areas.</p>	<p>Access audits are undertaken when an area is either being upgraded or replaced, however, there is not a comprehensive database in place to review existing play areas; it is ad-hoc.</p> <p>Lack of available funding to implement access improvements that may be identified.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Access audits are undertaken when an area is either being upgraded or replaced. All new and upgraded play areas are designed so that they are all inclusive and DDA compliant.		
	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	GREEN	This has been implemented with the Council's landscape design service.		
	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	AMBER	AMBER	The safety implications of play spaces are considered as part of the annual safety inspection undertaken by an external and independent play inspector. Internal monthly inspections are carried out at all playgrounds.	A more detailed play space assessment is required for designated play spaces to look at the play value and play experience of an area. Currently, the data collated from the annual safety inspections and the Open Space Background Paper 2013), does not cover this.	
	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	GREEN	GREEN	All 66 fenced playgrounds in the Vale are smoke free.	Smoke free zone signage is in 90% of the playgrounds. It is difficult to enforce this rule.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Authority has removed some no ball games signs.	There are still 'no ball games' signs in some housing areas, usually due to the request of residents. There is a need to raise awareness amongst the public of the need and a child's right to play in their community.	
	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	RED	RED	There is no supporting evidence for this statement.	<p>The Council is against excessive signing so it is unlikely that permanent Play Priority signs will be introduced. However this could be discussed further with appropriate Council departments and Community Councils based on individual area need with the potential to pilot temporary signage in identified areas.</p> <p>A child completing the online survey highlighted that a sign had recently been placed in a space in the</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>housing area at Cosmeston stating that children are not allowed to ride or use their scooters in the area (an area where they have previously been able to play). This is an example of disharmony in some residential areas where children want to play but other residents see this as an issue. This could be due to a lack of understanding regarding children's desire to access play in their local community. There is a need to raise awareness of a child's right to play, and their desire to play in their own community.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made</p>	GREEN	AMBER	<p>When considering the disposal of playing fields local authorities are subject to the statutory provisions set out under S123 of the TCPA 1972 and S233 of the TCPA 1990. Such publically owned sites are generally only considered for disposal when they have been identified as surplus to requirements by the authority or where</p>	<p>The Local Authority is currently undertaking a Community Asset transfer on some green spaces in the Vale. If playing fields are adopted by the sports clubs which use them at</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>they have been identified as contributing to a wider regeneration project. In both instances the contribution that the space makes to not only children's play but the wider environment will have been fully considered.</p> <p>When sites are considered for disposal as a part of a wider regeneration or improvement scheme, new development proposals will be expected to provide open space in accordance with the councils adopted open space standards in accordance with the adopted Local Development Plan. In many cases, the Council produces statements and/or Planning briefs when disposing of sites and these include a list of relevant policies, including those relating to open space.</p>	<p>set times this could potentially mean that the facilities are unavailable for play outside these hours. This is something that needs to be considered.</p>	
	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	GREEN	GREEN	<p>When considering the disposal of playing fields local authorities are subject to the statutory provisions set out under S123 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1972 and S233 of the 1990 TCPA. This sets out when and how local advertisements for land disposal should be managed and requires the inclusion of the proposal within a local news publication covering the local area of the disposal on two consecutive weeks. Notwithstanding the above, whilst there is no specific requirement to include children and their families specifically within any</p>	None	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>consultation process, the consultation is open and unrestricted.</p> <p>Such public sites are generally only considered for disposal when they have been identified as surplus to requirements by the authority or where they have been identified as contributing to a wider regeneration or improvement project. In both instances the contribution that the space makes to not only children's play but the wider environment will have been fully considered.</p> <p>In addition any proposal to develop open space for alternative uses would be subject to the legally required planning consultation process.</p>		
	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	NEW	GREEN	When refurbishing or developing new play grounds, the Council puts together a brief which sets out guidance and parameters for contractors. The brief will include a number of requirements, including a requirement for the contractor to explain their approach to design, including how it will ensure suitable access for disabled people. The play area provider is also required to provide a Disabled Access Statement. This is clearly outlined within the brief. All relevant guidance (eg Rospa) is used when	The Local Authority does not have any local policy guidance regarding the refurbishment and development of new playgrounds. The Fields in Trust Guidance provides sufficient guidance.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				refurbishing or developing new play areas – siting, design, equipment, surfacing etc.		

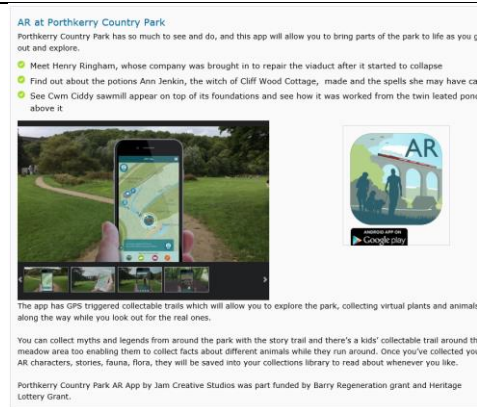
Open Spaces

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

Since the last submission of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (2016) the Council has adopted its Local Development Plan and updated its suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents including its Planning Obligations SPG. The contents of the LDP and the various SPG have been widely disseminated throughout the various Council departments. The Council employs a S106 Officer designated to spend S106 monies generated through development contributions. A major element of the S106 role is to ensure that open space is provided within new developments to the standards set out in the LDP and SPG documents. When considering the provision of open space, relevant departments are consulted for their views and comments. The Healthy Living Officer (Play) and the Family Information Service has supported the Planning Department with consultation in relation to the use of S106 funding in areas including Rhoose.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and its' partners has been proactive in promoting the use of the natural environment in the Vale for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families. Linking into children and young people's interest in technology, Activity Packs have been created to encourage children and young people (and their families) to embark on an outing to the coast and countryside where they are able to use Augmented Reality Apps and games that bring the history of that area to life, as they travel across the various spaces in that area. Through these apps they are able to explore local places of interest in areas such as woodlands, castles and countryside where they can 'run around castles, meet dastardly pirates, go on a fossil hunt or scare away the Vikings – whatever gets their hearts racing, their brains pumping and their feet stomping out the door'.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2



Another example of the use of technology to encourage the use of open spaces for outdoor play and activity is the Interactive Tree Trail developed at Romilly Park in 2018. The free trail introduces people of all ages to the wide and interesting variety of trees that are planted within the park, whilst also providing a fun, outdoor play experience that encourages and promotes physical exercise in the outdoor environment. These trees are linked together via an AR trail to form a route to encourage children and adults to discover more about the trees and their surroundings. This project was developed by members of the Healthy Living Team and Neighbourhood Services Team, and was funded via S106 funding, Sport Wales funding and Welsh Government All Wales Play funding.



Link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Coast and Countryside webpage:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Coast-and-Countryside/Apps-and-Activities.aspx#ad-image-0>

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Coast-and-Countryside/Coast-and-Countryside.aspx>

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

The Open Space Background Paper (2013) has not been regularly updated due to the lack of resources and is a quantitative document, which does not provide any qualitative information, or access information. As part of the Local Development Plan review (a statutory requirement for the Local Development Plan over the Plan Period 2011-2026), the Council will be re-examining all background papers including the open space background paper, and if resources permit, will be updating the paper and expanding upon it to cover the identified challenges.

Comments:

Feedback from Llangan Community Council highlights that they expect that the Local Authority has an inventory of council owned open space suitable for play. However they would also like the Local Authority to consider supporting them in maintaining other open spaces which are used for play, for example, Treoes Moors. They would also like to see consideration given to other opportunities for re-deploying land for play areas when they arise, for example, the traveller site in Llangan when it becomes available.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

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

See Matter boxes above for further information. This has also been assisted via consultation exercises involving the local community and interested parties on what they feel sites should contain in order to ensure that proposals / briefs are as accurate as possible from the commencement of project planning.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

Feedback from the Neighbourhood Services Team identify that residents have high accessibility expectations. There is a high expectation that all fixed play is accessible to individuals with limited mobility / disabled users. By default a play area should be as accessible and inclusive as possible and this is obviously the preferred choice. However with the available financial resources this is not always achievable. It is important to engage all interested parties when undertaking consultation and discussions around new provision. It is important to ensure that the views and needs of disabled children and their families are considered. It is also important that there is a greater understanding of what can be achieved with the resources available.

Comments

Link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Parks and Gardens webpage:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Parks-and-Gardens/Parks-and-Gardens.aspx>

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.	

Playwork provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	<p>All supervised play settings registered with the CIW are held on the Dewis Cymru website so data can be accessed when required. There is also now a category for 'open access play'. The information also includes unregistered settings.</p> <p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) also contains information, although this data may be outdated as it is a five year assessment.</p> <p>Flying Start keep records regarding both child and adult details in relation to 'Pop in and Play' attendance This data is shared via the RBA monitoring process.</p>	There is only a limited amount of regular supervised play provision available due to limited resources and some settings unable or unwilling to complete the CIW registration process.	<p><i>Participation in play is recognised as an important contributor to the health and wellbeing of children and young people by the Local Authority.</i></p> <p>D1: The new Leisure Strategy to be adopted with play incorporated as a key area of contribution.</p> <p><i>The local authority offers play provision which</i></p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				The Healthy Living Team also keep appropriate records of provision delivered via their service.		<i>offers a rich play environment</i>
	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>When funding is available the Healthy Living Team provide open access play schemes, Play Ranger sessions and Play events. These usually take place during school holidays. All provision takes into account First Claim, the framework for playwork quality assessment and encompasses the range of play types. During 2017-2018, in conjunction with partners including Town & Community Councils and United Welsh Housing, the Healthy Living team delivered Play Ranger sessions to 263 children aged 5 – 11 years during the summer school holidays in local park areas and open spaces. This provided children (and families) with the opportunity to experience play outdoors, which may otherwise be limited due to parental fears about safety. An additional 169 children attended the playschemes delivered in Barry and Dinas Powys.</p> <p>As highlighted in Matter B quality play provision is also delivered to disabled children through the Families First Holiday Club.</p>	<p>There are no resources currently available for the local authority to deliver a planned programme of open access play provision or afterschool provision. The provision delivered is usually reactive based on when funding becomes available.</p> <p>There is a need to increase the play team to build the capacity to develop and deliver more play opportunities.</p>	<p>D2: Increase availability of open access play opportunities during school holidays through the delivery of inclusive playschemes, Play Ranger sessions and Family Fun Days.</p> <p>D3: The Woody Wanderers project is promoted to local schools to increase the number of children experiencing fun, outdoor play activities linked to Forest Schools.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) has worked in partnership with community based Seren Gwyrdd to expand outdoor play opportunities through the delivery of Forest School sessions to more than 70 children, including a group of home educated children using Romilly Park, Barry as a base. This project was further supported through Welsh Government funding to purchase a variety of outdoor play and Forest Schools equipment, along with a large storage container in which to securely store the equipment on site. Activities included cooking, rope work, shelter building, making fires, learning about the environment, connecting with nature as well as giving the participants the opportunity to experience free play outdoors using natural materials e.g. mud kitchen, loose parts, den building, tree-climbing and arts and crafts. The equipment will also be promoted for use by other organisations within the Vale who wish to increase exposure to outdoor play activities including Seren Gwyrdd who run community based sessions for children and families.</p> <p>The Park Rangers at Cosmeston Country Park, Porthkerry Country Park and the Heritage Coast provide an environmental education programme for schools offering activities including:</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond dipping • Nature walks • Past and present land use • Bug hunts • Den building and fire lighting • Orienteering <p>They also offer the same opportunities for interested groups, home educators, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Rainbows. During the school holidays they run out of school activities offering similar activities to the above. From April 2018 to February 2019 Cosmeston Country Park offered opportunities to 80 groups consisting of over 1450 children. Porthkerry Country Park delivered 112 education sessions for schools which included outdoor play activities. All sites also run one off events for families such as nest box making, star gazing, bug hunting, dormouse hunting and a range of children's activity sessions.</p> <p>Detailed planning of activities is in place for all play provision under Flying Start. This covers all areas of learning linked to enhancing children's development. They also deliver free Pop in and Play sessions for Flying Start families with activities including songs and rhymes, and arts and crafts as well as Mini Movers and Movers & Shakers</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				sessions to encourage physical activity, creative play and dance.		
	The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) has supported Y Bont Faen Primary School to increase the quality of play opportunities available during the playtimes. This included consulting with the children to establish their thoughts on the current opportunities available, what they would like and how things could be changed to enhance their playtime opportunities. The outcome of the consultation was that the children wanted more loose parts / free play equipment available during the break, which has now been facilitated.</p> <p>Through Welsh Government funding equipment & resources were purchased for play projects, outdoor play and events including providing resources to Palmerston Out of School club, Oshi's World, Vale Homework Club, the Family Information Service and the creation of an Events Kit package for use by partners and community groups. Where relevant these organisations have also been supported in other ways by the Healthy Living Officer (Play) to ensure they offer quality experiences.</p>	There is a need to increase capacity within the play element of the Healthy Living Team to be able to support more partners to offer play opportunities.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>All play rich environments are offered support from the Vale's Early Years & Childcare Quality Monitoring officer. Support is given on registration, policies/procedures, financial help etc.</p> <p>The Flying Start funding is utilised to ensure positive rich play environments within all Flying Start settings and play activities.</p> <p>Stronger Communities Grant Fund has supported the development of a new play area in Colwinston.</p> <p>Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF) and S106 money has funded a new play area in St Athan. A new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has been funded through RCDF funding in Peterston Super Ely. Funding from RCDF has been sought for the extension to the Dinas Powys Scout Hall (Awaiting approval). Llandough Community Council has secured funding under the Stronger Communities Grant Fund for a MUGA</p> <p>A number of fun days have been hosted by the SAINTS in St Athan, including summer, Halloween and Christmas events. This has involved some initial support from the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) and members of the sports side of the Healthy Living Team.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The SAINTS have also received funding under the LEADER Growing Community Spirit project to hold a number of Health and Wellbeing days with a group of children from St Athan. As well as learning new skills around football, they are learning about general fitness, relaxation and nutrition.</p> <p>Menter Bro Morgannwg are being supported to increase opportunities for children to access play provision through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>A number of Town & Community Councils have been supported to improve fixed play provision that they manage through access to the Welsh Government play funding. These include Barry Town Council, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, Dinas Powys Community Council, Llanmaes Community Council and Wick Community Council.</p>		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	The Families First Holiday Club is registered with CIW and meet all regulatory requirements to retain this registration. The open access playschemes and Play Ranger sessions are not registered as they do not require registration. However these provisions follow the same good practice guidelines as identified within regulated environments.	Due to the limited play staffing infrastructure and the uncertainty regarding ongoing play budgets it is not feasible to register any other provision with CIW other than the Families First Holiday Club. With additional	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				All Flying Start staff are suitably qualified to meet the Social Care Wales Qualification Framework for Early Years and Childcare 2017.	capacity and confirmed budgets it may be beneficial to do this as it would enable more regular provision to be delivered.	
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	All Flying Start settings meet and exceed the National Minimum Standards for CIW. Inspections are conducted every 3 years although in-house inspections conducted annually.	There is limited staffed play provision in the Vale.	
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	Information as to whether play settings are registered with the CIW are held on the Dewis Wales website. Those partners that apply for an Out of School Childcare grant are not always registered with CIW but some may be working towards this. Clybiau Plant Cymru works with registered after school clubs to develop quality play opportunities.	There is limited staffed play provision in the Vale. Registration with the Vale Quality Standards is an optional registration so is reliant on organisations seeing the benefits of registration.	
	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	AMBER	GREEN	Approximately, 3 years ago, the Vale of Glamorgan produced the Vale's Quality Standards which empowers childcare providers to improve and make positive changes which will enhance the quality of childcare they provide. The Families First	There is limited staffed play provision in the Vale.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Holiday Club has gained this Quality Standard.</p> <p>Flying Start English Medium Settings have all registered with WPPA Quality For All Scheme and have achieved Highly Commended Status. Flying Start Welsh Medium Provision has achieved Silver Award (internal provider) and Bronze Award (external provider).</p>		
	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Approximately 3 years ago, the Vale of Glamorgan produced the Vale's Quality Standards which empowers childcare providers to improve and make positive changes which will enhance the quality of childcare they provide. Where possible the Local Authority will expect the private sector being engaged to have already achieved this Standard or be working towards it.</p> <p>Review and monitoring of services is inbuilt in the contractual arrangements for each service funded by the CYPP or through other Council departments. Commissioning of services is based on identified need.</p> <p>Flying Start English Medium Settings have all registered with WPPA Quality For All Scheme and have achieved Highly Commended Status. Flying Start Welsh Medium Provision has achieved Silver</p>	Given the current financial climate for Local Authorities, price can often be a determining factor when procuring services as was the case with the Leisure Management contract.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Award (internal provider) and Bronze Award (external provider).</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan's Local Development Strategy prioritises to 'Encourage local businesses and community enterprises to provide local services' in PR3. Projects are encouraged that identify opportunities for Council Services which could be delivered by the community. The Boys and Girls Club Wales have recently received LEADER funding to pilot the delivery of Volunteer Led Youth Provision in the rural Vale of Glamorgan. The project will be delivered over the next 2 years.</p>		
	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	RED	AMBER	<p>The Neighbourhood Services Team encourage and allow appropriate groups to use Parks & Open Spaces for non-profit making events and activities free of charge. The Healthy Living Team make use of this access to deliver free events, Play Ranger sessions and sports sessions in local parks and open spaces, along with numerous other local organisations.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Deri Special School have opened up their facilities for free usage during schools holidays to enable the Families First Holiday Club to run. This has proved invaluable, particularly as they have a wealth of specialist resources which enhance the play opportunities for disabled children. Access to</p>	There still continues to be some issues in relation to gaining access to suitable schools and community venues such as leisure centres during the school holiday periods and out of school hours to deliver open access playschemes and events. It is difficult to gain access to these types of venues and when access can be gained	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>this facility has also enabled the provision to gain CIW registration as it now has a fixed base.</p> <p>Flying Start make their facilities available free of charge to some organisations.</p>	there is usually a charge levied.	

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Vale Council are in the final stages of adopting their Leisure Strategy. Play and the Play Sufficiency Assessment process is acknowledged in this document as impacting on the vision to 'increase the levels of participation and physical activity in the Vale of Glamorgan encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles'.</p> <p>The Vale Sport & Physical Activity plan year is successfully impacting upon the participation rates amongst</p>	<p>These projects and the staffing are reliant on external funding.</p> <p>It is unclear how the Physical Literacy agenda and other additional projects mentioned in the strengths section will be delivered if Sport Wales introduce the proposed Community Sport restructure which will see funding and associated delivery regionalised.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>children & young people with the School Sport Survey results for 2018 highlighting a 2% increase since the last survey to 54% which is above the Welsh average of 48%. Several of the projects included in this plan, such as the Hot Shots School Holiday provision, Physical Literacy project and the Young Ambassadors project have positively impacted on free play and recreational activity.</p> <p>In line with the Vision for Sport in Wales, the Local Authority has developed A 'Skills for a Life in Sport' pathway with the aim of providing every child and young person with the skills and confidence to be physically literate, to encourage life-long participation. The Local Authority acknowledge that young people best experience skill development through play so the physical literacy project focuses on this, helping children becoming more physically active through a variety of playful activities. The</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Young Ambassadors project includes the delivery of Playmakers training to primary age pupils, who use the skills and knowledge learnt to facilitate their peers to undertake more play and physical activity during their break times. This is a popular element of the programme.</p> <p>There is a strong link between the Sports staff and the Play staff within the Vale Council, with the Sports staff delivering open access sports/physical activity sessions within playschemes and at Play events. This is helping to bridge the gap for those children who are not confident enough to attend structured sports clubs. It has assisted some of these children to transition from play based physical activities to more formalised sports activities and it has also provided an opportunity for children who cannot afford to join sports clubs or who have not the opportunity to, to try a variety of sports. This is also</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				the case with the Families First Holiday Club where the children are able to experience a range of physical activities.		
	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The sports clubs in the Vale continue to deliver quality opportunities, contributing greatly to the Vale's increased participation rates amongst both juniors and adults. In addition to providing structured coaching activity, the clubs also facilitate recreational opportunities along with other organisations such as the Healthy Living Team, Legacy Leisure who manage the Vale Leisure Centres and other internal Council departments such as the Parks Department within Neighbourhood Services who work in conjunction with the Healthy Living Team to offer sporadic recreational opportunities in local parks.</p> <p>The aspirations and priorities for sports in the Vale are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a diverse sporting landscape to inspire 	<p>Participation rates in the Vale in physical activity for children and young people is positive, ranked 3rd in Wales at 54%. However there are still a high percentage of children and young people not accessing provision due to a variety of reasons including cost of activity, ability to access provision, other competing demands and a lack of interest in sport and physical activity.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>residents to be active throughout their life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop vibrant community sport – formal & informal sport opportunities • Increase competitive opportunities for children and young people & help those with the ability to move up the performance pathway • Develop fundamental skills for a life in sport <p>As indicated above a variety of programmes are being delivered to assist in achieving these aspirations.</p> <p>The Local Authority encourages young people to be involved in the development and delivery of quality sports opportunities through programmes such as the Coaches of the Future, Young Ambassadors and Playmakers. The views of children and young people are obtained via mechanisms including the School Sports Survey.</p> <p>Please also see previous box.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	AMBER	AMBER	There was no information provided from the relevant internal Council section to be able to assess this area, although it is known that there are arts opportunities available to children and young people.		
	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association	GREEN	GREEN	The Youth Service provides 5 universal, open access youth clubs across the Vale, and a regular programme of youth activities using a mobile youth club. The activities are run both during school terms and holiday periods. In addition annual events, residential and exchange opportunities are offered. The service also supports voluntary organisations in providing youth club activities widening access for young people further. Targeted projects provide opportunities where young people's specific needs can be met through referrals. The Youth Service engaged with 3800 young people in 2017-18 leading to reach of 17.7% of the Vale youth population.	Following a restructure, public awareness of the service, the activities available and their potential impact is low. A plan to improve marketing and promotion of the service is in place.	

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?

Where play opportunities are provided via private providers, those registered with Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW) will be inspected by CIW approximately every 2 years. They will also be supported by the Early Years & Childcare Quality Monitoring Officer (EY&CQMO) who will contact them to offer assistance on a variety of issues. Additionally, those providers not registered with CIW will receive support from the EY&CQMO. As part of their role they will visit early years' provision and is engaged with rolling out the Vale Quality Standards tool to enhance quality provision. Providers are only assessed when they sign up to the Vale's Quality Standards scheme.

All Flying Start Settings are included within the CSA. All settings are registered with either Wales Pre-school Providers Association or Mudiad Meithrin. All Flying Start settings have regular quality monitoring visits from the Flying Start Advisory Teacher to ensure quality play provision is in place

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

Please see above question. All childcare providers known to Family Information Service are invited to have support from the EY&CQMO regardless of whether they are registered with CIW or not, and if they form part of the CSA or not. Both childcare and play settings are invited to be part of the Vale Quality Standards scheme to highlight they meet the standards identified by the scheme. This scheme includes a self-assessment process. This is a voluntary process so is reliant on the organisation seeing the benefit of being involved in the scheme.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

As the Vale's Quality Standards scheme is voluntary, providers work collaboratively with the EY&CQMO. It has been noted on occasions that there have been a few challenges mainly down to the environment in which the provision sits i.e. school based, privately based and the provisions available. There have been instances where some organisation want the recognition of the award without committing to putting in the effort required to achieve the standard. Additional support to show the importance of the award and how this can be positive when encouraging parents / guardians to send their children to the play provision may assist with encouraging more settings to work towards the Vale Quality Standards.

They are very few settings in the Vale that deliver play which are not included as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments as there is little funding available for play based settings (as opposed to childcare settings). The opportunities currently delivered by the Local Authority in relation to playschemes and Play Ranger sessions are not currently registered with CIW, other than the Families First Holiday Club. However, all provision delivered by the Local Authority is run according to CIW standards. The Healthy Living Team work in conjunction with the Early Years & Childcare Quality Monitoring Officer to ensure that the non-registered provision meets quality standards.

Comments:

Link to the Vale Council's Play Development webpage:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Sports-and-Play/Play-Development.aspx#sufficiency>

Through their input into the PSA process, Llangan Community Council have indicated that they are not aware of any supervised play provision provided or supported by the council, other than the out-of-school club at Llangan Primary School. They believe that the Local Authority could be more proactive in offering support for supervised play provision within the Llangan area. Their community survey has indicated a need for activities for older children, such as a Youth Club and opportunities for children to play sports in the area. Currently, children have to travel to Cowbridge or Bridgend or even further afield to participate in these activities. Moving forward the Healthy Living Team will meet with Llangan Community Council to establish if there are any opportunities for joint working to assist with overcoming some of the gaps identified in the area.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

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

RAG status

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

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Flying Start has data from Welsh Government (LSOA) which highlights the % of 0-4 year olds living in Flying Start areas – this determines where Flying Start provision is targeted.</p> <p>Census Information</p> <p>Communities First information</p> <p>The number of children accessing free school meals</p>	<p>Where funding permits, provision is targeted to areas where there are low income families and the open access provision is offered free of charge to overcome any barriers relating to cost. However sometimes it is not feasible to deliver in specified areas as the funding stream often dictates the area in which a provision can be delivered.</p>	<p><i>Raise awareness of the play opportunities that can be undertaken free of charge within an identified area / community using the natural outdoor environment, and the fixed play and recreational equipment available in the parks and open spaces across the Vale.</i></p> <p>E1: Undertake a pilot community mapping exercise in a local area, identifying the different places and spaces in that area where children can</p>
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Flying Start has data from Welsh Government (LSOA) which highlights the % of 0-4 year olds living in Flying Start areas – this</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	in areas of deprivation			<p>determines where Flying Start provision is targeted.</p> <p>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies areas of greatest deprivation. The Local Authority utilises this and census information to identify the number living in an area at that time and look to project the numbers in each area.</p>		<p>play and provide examples of activities that could be undertaken.</p>
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Census data provides this information.</p> <p>Information from local Community Surveys and Community Mapping has also provided useful data.</p>		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Index of disabled children and young people and individuals with additional needs.</p> <p>Child Health & Disability records.</p> <p>School pupil role</p>	<p>The Index is a voluntary register so only captures those who have registered.</p>	
	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Dewis Cymru website holds details of supervised play provision which is available at no cost and those that have a cost. The Family Information service promotes free sessions and events via their social media channels and the holiday activities brochure.</p> <p>Free open access play projects run by the play section of the Healthy Living Team are promoted on the Vale of Glamorgan website, Family Information Service mechanisms,</p>	<p>Due to limited funding there are limited no cost play opportunities available in the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>through social media and locally in areas where play provision is being delivered. The information is also shared by partners to targeted families e.g. through links with Housing Associations and the Vale Housing department.</p> <p>Flying Start also run free provision so will hold the appropriate information, but this provision is sometimes limited to families within the identified targeted deprived areas.</p> <p>Assisted places funding is available for those children who are identified as in need.</p>		
	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	RED	RED	<p>This information is not recorded.</p> <p>There are examples where organisations have been able to access facilities for low/no cost but these are agreed on an ad hoc basis. E.g. local parks for Play Ranger sessions and events.</p> <p>The Flying Start buildings/areas are available for use outside of term time. The Flying Start Family Centre houses a holiday scheme delivered by a commissioned provider which is lower cost to families due to reduced rental charges to the provider via Flying Start.</p>	<p>There is no formal place for this information to be recorded.</p> <p>Following discussions with key partners there does not appear to be a need for this type of official record as information such as this is disseminated via informal mechanisms.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	GREEN However with hindsight this should have been amber	AMBER	<p>Out of School Sustainability grants are available to out of school childcare providers.</p> <p>New provision/extension of childcare places grant is available.</p> <p>Voluntary based organisations are signposted to the Glamorgan Voluntary Services who can assist with identifying appropriate sources of funding and can offer support with the application process where appropriate.</p> <p>Welsh Government Play Funding when available.</p>	<p>Only limited grants become available and these are not generally ongoing grant schemes. When they become available they are promoted to relevant organisations and providers through avenues including the Family Information Service and Healthy Living Team contacts.</p> <p>When available, the Welsh Government Play Funding is released late in the year which limits any strategic planning.</p>	
	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	AMBER	AMBER	The local authority through the Families First funding provided free transport for identified children attending the Families First Holiday Club up until 2018, although there was no specific funding for this and they were not expected or intending to initially do so. This was not sustainable through the scheme and had to been withdrawn. The LA continues to work through its Social Services team to support identified families who are unable to afford transport and supporting those most in need. This is not available to those families	<p>Some families struggle to transport their disabled children to play provision.</p> <p>The surveys undertaken in some rural villages has highlighted access to and lack of transport as an issue when trying to access play</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>already receiving benefits to support these types of activities.</p> <p>Those living in the rural Vale are able to access the Greenlinks Transport scheme although this is limited due to availability of funding, the timing of the service and the availability of volunteers.</p>	<p>and leisure activities. They recognise that the Greenlinks Transport scheme is in place but this is not always available at the times when children require it.</p>	

Charge for play provision

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

During the summer school holidays the local authority delivers a programme of free play opportunities for children, young people and families to access. This provision includes free:

- Play Rangers sessions delivered in outdoor spaces in local communities
- Playschemes delivered in community based indoor settings
- Family Fun Days using utilising outdoor space

These opportunities are delivered when funding is secured. Where additional funding is secured these may also take place at other times of the year.

The Healthy Living Team also liaises with various internal departments and external organisations to deliver free play opportunities during events and sessions. These have included:

- Sports & Play Weekender held at Barry Island – in conjunction with the Vale Council Events team
- National Play Day event – in conjunction with the Parks Department within the Neighbourhood Services section
- Rotary Club of Barry Duck Race & Family Fun Day
- Kids Day Out event – in conjunction with the Rotary Club and Vale Council Events team
- Family Fun Days in Dinas Powys – in conjunction with Dinas Powys Library and Dinas Powys Community Council

- Family Fun Days in Barry – in conjunction with Vale Housing, Family Information Service, Barry Library, Vale Events team and Barry Town Traders
- The Big Picnic in Penarth – in conjunction with Penarth Resident
- Play Village provided at the Vale Show – in conjunction with Events Team and Vale Show organisers
- Play Ranger sessions in Wick – in partnership with Wick Town Council and local residents
- Working in partnership with Rhoose Homework club to deliver free play sessions whilst mentoring their volunteers at the same time
- Free play sessions for the local children and also delivered free training sessions to upskill local residents to deliver future free Family Fun Days within the St Athan area through work with St Athan Saints.

As part of the Flying Start programme families are regularly updated and reminded of provision in their areas, which is promoted via their Facebook page as well as via home visits and other group provision. Flying Start also provide free Family Fun Days to engage with parents and families and highlight the range of play opportunities they can undertake together.

Through the Playmakers training (as described earlier in the document), the schools have been able to expand the range of play / sports that children can participate in during break times, all of which are free to access. This has increased access to play for all children in schools where the training has taken place during their break times as well as extending play outside of school hours.

The Local Authority also actively encourages use of the Vale's natural environment to support access to free play opportunities. The use of technology to increase access to the outdoors has also been encouraged through projects such as the augmented reality projects mentioned earlier in this document and these are providing additional low cost / no cost opportunities. The Healthy Living Team, Family Information Service and Flying Start regularly post and share information of social media to promote the range of low cost / no cost activities available.




Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

Whilst there is positive partnership working taking place to provide free or low cost access to play provision, there are still opportunities to develop these partnerships further. Currently partners invite other partners to become involved in a project or event in their area. However ideally all partners should pool their financial and physical resources from the outset to develop a joint plan. This will save on duplication and resources. There are further opportunities for the Healthy Living team, Flying Start, Youth Offending Service, the Youth Service, the Parks Department, the Housing Department & external organisations such as Housing Associations to work together to deliver an affordable programme of provision that can assist all partners with achieving their objectives, whilst enabling children and young people to have access to play provision regardless of their financial situation.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

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

RAG Status

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

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas	GREEN	GREEN	<p>A list of 20 mph zones is currently available and specific records of schemes implemented are kept by Planning & Transportation Services.</p> <p>20mph zones are often implemented through the Safe Routes in Communities Programme funded by the Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Feedback from Penarth Town Council and Llangan Community Council suggested that the introduction of more 20mph speed limit zones would make roads safer and may encourage children to return to playing in the street. However the process of introducing 20mph zones is not easy can be expensive.</p>	<p><i>Children are supported to safely travel to spaces to play and use fun, active methods to do so.</i></p> <p>F1: The Active Travel Task & Finish group to be made aware of the Play Sufficiency Assessment requirements relating to this area to drive the agenda forward. There is increased understanding of the link between Active Travel and play. Appropriate achievable actions are identified by the</p>
	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and	RED	RED	The Highway Authority is charged with reducing casualties, addressing inappropriate vehicle speeds, reducing congestion and encouraging modal shift.	The assessment of the success of a highway safety scheme is not	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities			<p>The introduction of speed reduction measures have assisted in addressing the safety issues in areas where there are high levels of children e.g. outside schools. However there is not an identified mechanism for assessing this specifically against children's play. Engineers would need to provide speed reduction materials.</p> <p>The Council's Highway Development Group considers the design of highways for new residential developments and would consider the safety of all highway users, not only children.</p>	limited to the impact on children.	<p>group to progress this priority.</p> <p><i>There is a greater understanding of the impact that traffic and safe routes to play spaces has on children's ability to access quality local play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.</i></p> <p>F2: There is increased awareness regarding the road closure process so that communities are aware they can apply for localised road closures to facilitate community and street based play events / opportunities.</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	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Safe crossing points / routes for pedestrians and cyclists are provided through the Active Travel programme. The existing route maps have been submitted to Welsh Government and the Integrated Network Maps available. The Vale have an adopted Local Transport Plan that shows current schemes required to be implemented, allowing for additional schemes to be introduced.</p> <p>The Highway Authority is charged with reducing casualties, addressing inappropriate vehicle speeds, reducing congestion and encouraging modal shift. Any new works on the highway will include improvements to crossing points and routes for pedestrians and cyclists where possible.</p>		<p>F3: A PSA Workshop is held relating to this area and an overview is produced</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Much work is undertaken on cycling and walking and linking to education establishments and areas of open space.		highlighting potential ways to move forward with this area of work.
	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies to think more about the long-term and work better with communities to prevent problems by providing the infrastructure and training that allows people to choose walking and cycling as a safe mode of travel.</p> <p>There are numerous examples of cycle and walking paths constructed across the Vale. This is undertaken as a matter of course as part of the Local Development and Transport plans. Whilst the majority of these are not created specifically in relation to access to parks or play facilities, they have positively impacted upon these, and encourage access to spaces where children can play. Improvements undertaken since the previous PSA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extension and completion of the cycle/walking path on Port Road, Barry, which accesses play facilities in Wenvoe and Colcot 		<p><i>Increase awareness regarding the range of outdoor play spaces and play opportunities available within the Vale.</i></p> <p>F4: A user friendly information leaflet is available for residents to promote the outdoor play opportunities available in the Vale.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Ham Lane cycle route in Llantwit Major which provides access to the leisure centre, playing/sports fields and MUGA facilities. A cycling/walking route which links to NCN88 through the Waterfront Development to Barry Island and a new park. Provision of a new Toucan crossing at Lower Penarth to access Cosmeston Country Park and improvement to surfacing of the shared cycling/walking route through the park to Dinas Powys. <p>There is a section on the Vale website which highlights walking and cycling routes. The Walking Route leaflets in particular have areas of interest identified on them which includes areas where children and families can play including outdoor spaces, beaches and woodlands.</p>		
	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities	GREEN (with hindsight should potentially be amber)	AMBER	The Highway Authority is charged with reducing casualties, addressing inappropriate vehicle speeds, reducing congestion and encouraging modal shift. The Council's Highway Development Group considers the design of highways for new residential developments and would consider the safety of all highway users, not only children.	Some Town & Community Councils, particularly those in the rural Vale feel that traffic speed reduction initiatives could be implemented in to their villages.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				As advised in other indicators, Section 106 planning obligation money, as well as being used to provide enhancement to open space, is also used to promote walking and cycling. There are a number of examples in the Vale where new routes have been designated.	New initiatives can only be implemented when funding becomes available.	
	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 training is delivered in schools as part of a comprehensive road safety package utilising funding obtained from Welsh Government in addition to internal resources. National standards cycle training is one of the five prioritised education and training interventions as identified in the Road Safety Framework (2013).		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	GREEN	Child pedestrian training is delivered in schools as part of a comprehensive road safety package utilising funding obtained from Welsh government in addition to internal resources. Child pedestrian training is one of the five prioritised education and training interventions as identified in the Road Safety Framework (2013).		
	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 With hindsight should be amber	AMBER	The Council does have arrangements in place to provide for temporary closures, and these are used as part of event planning.	It is unclear how well known these procedures are amongst the public and that they are aware they can be used to support street play.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm	GREEN	GREEN	<p>All planning applications which create or amend the highway network, considers the advice and guidance contained in Manual For Streets. The Council's Planning division and Highway Engineers have due regard to the relevant standards and good practice guidelines.</p> <p>Further, the Council also has due regard to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 which is a statutory requirement and consideration of all new planning applications.</p>	The requirements and guidelines set out in MfS are fully considered when new development schemes are assessed.	
	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>When implementing any walking and cycling scheme the local authority always has regard to the good practice guidelines developed by a range of agencies, most importantly, the Active Travel Act. Notwithstanding this, each scheme implemented is unique and subject to a range of individual issues and solutions. Inevitably best practice guidelines cannot always be adhered to, however where such instances arise, the LA will always seek innovative solutions to the situation while preserving usability and safety.</p> <p>All schemes implemented are subject to detailed design by the Council's Highway Engineers and due regard is paid to the relevant standards and good practice guidelines. Sustrans is a key consultee and partner when delivering schemes.</p>	None	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities	GREEN	GREEN	No change since previous PSA - although these casualties are very low. Therefore other factors are considered including Grant criteria. The Highway Authority is charged with reducing casualties, addressing inappropriate vehicle speeds, reducing congestion and encouraging modal shift. Casualty data informs all proposals for safety improvements on the highway network. Children are seen as a vulnerable group.		
	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	This is not necessarily the case as public transport funding is reducing and the resources consider all needs, not just the needs of children. Children's needs are only taken into consideration as part of a wider consideration for socially necessary bus services, which will need to include a consideration of the accessibility vis-avis a range of services. There are potential opportunities through avenues such as Greenlinks to assist with accessing play spaces for children, particularly those in rural areas.	The Greenlinks scheme is reliant on volunteers, has to be pre-booked and is not always run when the children require it. Therefore this does not always accommodate reactive play opportunities	
	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	Moved from Matter B	AMBER	There was no information provided from the relevant internal Council section to be able to assess this area, so the previous assessment will stand.	No information provided.	

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

<p>The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Local Authority website contains relevant information on the Sports & Play webpages and the Parks section of the main Vale of Glamorgan Council website. This provides basic information about the parks, some play areas and open spaces in the Vale, as well as the activities delivered by the play section of the Healthy Living Team.</p> <p>There is a link to the Dewis Cymru website / FIS online search in the Sports & Play section. This allows people to search for play activities, childcare, activities for children and young people, groups and support services delivered both internally within the Council and by external providers. This includes information relating to cost and accessibility.</p> <p>The Family Information Service web pages have a section on 'Physical Health' which then links to the Healthy Living Team's sports and play web pages.</p> <p>The Index webpage also provides useful links for the families of disabled children and young people with the quarterly Index newsletter available online on the webpage also.</p>	<p>There has been a rationalisation of the Vale of Glamorgan website. Basic information regarding the opportunities provided by the LA is provided. Residents are then directed to the Dewis website for further up to date information regarding the range of opportunities delivered by both internal and external providers across the Vale. This system is reliant on organisations registering with Dewis and updating their information.</p> <p>Not all of the play areas in the Vale are included on the website and there is no information regarding the accessibility of the fixed play equipment.</p>	<p><i>Increase awareness regarding the range of outdoor play spaces and play opportunities available within the Vale (to also encompass supervised play opportunities delivered by partners including the Healthy Living team, Country Park Rangers and Flying Start).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A user friendly information leaflet is available for residents to promote the outdoor play opportunities available in the Vale.
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	<p>The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>Information regarding the opportunities available and contact details for the Healthy Living Team, the Family Information Service and Index are provided on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website. There are links from the Family Information Service webpage to the Healthy Living Team's sports & play webpage, and vice versa.</p> <p>There is a dedicated Play Development e-mail address for members of the public to make contact:</p> <p>playdevelopment@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.</p> <p>There is also a dedicated FIS e-mail address: FIS@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.</p> <p>There is a good relationship between the Healthy Living Team and the Family Information Service so cross reference to the respective services are made where appropriate. Flying Start details are also available and shared.</p> <p>Social media outlets such as Twitter (@valesportsplay & @ValeFIS) and Facebook are also used to promote opportunities available. The Council also have an overarching Council Facebook and Twitter page which often post / repost and tweet / retweet relevant information which is useful as they have a greater reach than the Sports & Play links.</p>		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

				<p>The Family Information Service produce an online Easter and Summer Activities Brochure, containing all childcare, play and leisure activities for families during the holiday period, and contact details of all organisations. This includes information regarding the play opportunities delivered by the Vale Council in addition to external providers. The Index newsletter is used to promote the play opportunities available to disabled children.</p> <p>Direct marketing also takes place by projects that have targeted audiences such as Flying Start and the Vale Housing team who are involved in the delivery of play opportunities through e.g. family events.</p>		
	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	GREEN	GREEN	<p>These are publicised on the Vale website, via social media including Twitter and Facebook (this includes through the main Council address, in addition to the Events team, Healthy Living Team, Flying Start and Family Information Service links). There is a good link between the Healthy Living Team and the Vale Events team, who have previously incorporated play within a number of the Vale's high profile events such as the Summer Weekenders and the Vale Show. This exposes more of the public to free play activities. During these events the opportunity is taken to promote other activities available e.g. playscheme & Play Rangers and play events.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

				<p>As above, the Easter and Summer Activities Brochures are publicised on the Family Information Service website and via various Facebook and Twitter avenues. The Family Information Service promotes all play events run by internal and external partners. Playschemes and other play activities.</p> <p>Activities are also promoted in the quarterly Index newsletter. The Index newsletter and e-bulletins highlight any events and play opportunities for children with additional needs.</p> <p>Activities are also promoted via the new Flying Start Facebook page which is linked with the Family Information Service. All events for the communities are also shared via groups linked to the Index and when on 1:1 visits.</p> <p>The Youth Service has active social media accounts where opportunities for young people are advertised.</p> <p>Examples of events supported are highlighted earlier in this document.</p>		
	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	AMBER	AMBER	The Healthy Living Team regularly shares posts on Facebook made by Play Wales that promote the positive benefits and need for children to have access to play. Information regarding Play Wales publications such as 'Play: Mental Health & Wellbeing' are shared via social media. The team are also	The positive community impact of the work of play initiatives are sometimes promoted via press releases, through the website,	

				<p>supporting the ‘Playful Childhoods’ campaign and associated website which has been created by Play Wales to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents in giving their children opportunities to play • parents so they feel confident about letting their children play outside in the community • the development of playful communities for children across Wales • a shared understanding of the importance of play for children and teenagers by all adults across Wales. <p>Positive community attitudes to play will shortly be further developed as funding has been secured through the Welsh Government play funding to purchase printed publications to distribute to parents at events etc. These will promote the positive benefits of play and how to encourage more play.</p> <p>The Local Authority embrace national campaigns such as National Play Day and use these as an opportunity to raise awareness regarding the importance of play. This is undertaken as a partnership approach between partners including the Healthy Living Team and the Family Information Service.</p>	<p>social media and the council's corporate channels. However this is not as regular as could occur and is quite reactive. There could be a more planned approach to this.</p>	
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				<p>The Healthy Living Team distributes the Play Wales 'Focus on Play' publications to the relevant internal departments and external partners to raise awareness regarding the benefits of play and to highlight the impact each of the services / organisations can have in relation to access to play. Such publications include 'Play & Transport' and 'Play & Town and Country Planning'. This is being further supported as a result of funding obtained through the Welsh Government to purchase printed resources published by Play Wales to highlight the impact professionals can have on access to play.</p> <p>During family events where play activities are included, playworkers are proactive in promoting the opportunities to play.</p> <p>The Family Information Service share Play Wales posts and publications. They are also proactive in posting ideas for play activities families can undertake together at home or in their community. This is further promoted / reinforced through 1:1 play sessions in the home, group based play sessions with families and research/good practice shared via the Facebook page. When resources allow, the Healthy Living Team promote play through group based play sessions and events.</p> <p>The Index newsletter includes feedback and positive images from the playscheme at Ysgol Y Deri.</p>		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	<p>The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Healthy Living Team, Family Information Service, Flying Start and other Council departments including the corporate Communications team provide and share information to encourage parents to enable their children to play. This information is shared through various mechanisms including the website, social media, local radio and through direct contact with families either in person or via e-mail distribution. Examples of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting opportunities that other organisations are delivering that can be attended by families • promoting events and sessions delivered by Council departments and their partners • promoting the use of the Vale’s natural environment for play • promoting the local play areas • sharing ideas regarding activities families can undertake together at home or in the community (Family Information Service regularly post ideas on their Facebook page) • encouraging parents to visit the ‘Playful Childhoods’ website created by Play Wales • sharing relevant posts made by Play Wales on social media. For example, promoting the ‘31 Days to Play Campaign’ created by Play Wales which provided 31 days of different play 	<p>A lot of information is available and shared via social media by various partners. The success of this is obviously reliant on parents being signed up to the various social media outlets and pages. There may be the need to promote that this information is available via these platforms.</p>	
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				<p>activities families could undertake together.</p> <p>During family events where play activities are included, playworkers and other staff members are proactive in promoting opportunities to play and encourage parents to join in the fun with their children.</p> <p>The Family Information Service and Flying Start provides various publications to parents about getting children active and playing with children. The Family Information Service also has a number of parenting pages with information about language and play and where to go for further information.</p> <p>Through attendance at various events and through ad hoc activities such as Play Ranger sessions, the Healthy Living Team are able to provide parents with ideas and the opportunity to develop their confidence to deliver play activities themselves.</p> <p>The work of the Flying Start team supports parents to encourage their children to play. This is reinforced through 1:1 play sessions in the home, group based play sessions such as Pop Up and Play sessions with families and research/good practice shared via their Facebook page</p>		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	<p>The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Family Information Service and Families First Advice Line are able to signpost to appropriate organisations and activities as are the Healthy Living Team. All of these services signpost to the Dewis Cymru website which highlights the range of opportunities available in the Vale.</p> <p>The Family Information Service, Healthy Living Team and other relevant internal departments and external organisations also signpost via social media.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a link with Bro Radio, a local community radio station who has assisted with promoting play opportunities and events when requested. There are also links to local newspapers. However this media is not used that often as there is more of a focus on using social media.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that there may be an over-reliance on the use of social media, which may result in those who do not use social media missing out on the information.</p>	

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?

The local highway authority has a duty to maintain the safety and usability of roads that are provided at public expense. This duty includes the provision of footways which form a part of the adopted highway and in the majority of cases, the maintenance of footway networks that form a part of new developments. When considering the design and layout of new development schemes the local authority considers both vehicle and pedestrian movements to ensure useable public networks.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

The continued reduction of local authority maintenance budgets places increasing challenges on authorities in undertaking their statutory requirements. There are always challenges in ensuring that new development schemes successfully integrate with existing highway and footway networks which maintain and improve public access to local facilities and services. An increase to local authority maintenance and general highway budgets would assist with this.

Issues with moving around their communities to access play opportunities has been raised by some children via the online 'Play – Have Your Say Survey'. Llangan Community Council also advised that their residents have highlighted this as a problem in their local community survey. As there are no play areas or managed open spaces for the children in Llangan they access the play areas in Fferm Goch and Treoes. However there are no footpaths, pavements or cycle tracks to enable them to access these play areas safely so they have to travel to them by car. Within some of the Vale villages, children are prevented from having safe access to play areas due to the hazards presented by the volume and speed of the traffic travelling through the villages and the lack of safe access to play spaces. Whilst there are 20mph zones in some villages, other areas such as Llangan have highlighted that there are none present in their village. They feel these reductions in traffic speed may positively impact on this issue and make children and families feel safer to travel on foot or cycle / scooter to the play spaces. There is anecdotal evidence from Local Authorities outside of the Vale who have placed 'Children Playing' signs on roads running through villages and streets in towns to highlight that children are playing (similar to the signs you see near schools). Feedback has suggested that this has assisted with slowing down the traffic in some areas. This could be considered for implementation in identified areas in the Vale, however the Vale has a policy of limited signage so this may be an issue moving forward with this suggestion. A proposed action is to design some temporary signage to place in identified areas of concern, to indicate children are playing to see if this impacts on the traffic speed, although it will be difficult to monitor the impact of this.

In the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment, it was acknowledged that there was a need for Local Authority departments and Town and Community Councils to work more closely to try to overcome some of the impact that traffic and transport has on children's ability to play where they want to. It is acknowledged that this will be a long term process. Consideration needs to be given to how we can improve the environment to support and encourage outdoor play and active travel, particularly in some of our more deprived areas and rural areas, possibly through transport improvement schemes (where funding allows) and street closures for play, although these would require the support and agreement of all community members to be successful.

The Local Authority is proactive in accessing available funding streams to implement new walking and cycling routes, a number of which are located by parks, woodlands and open spaces. The survey undertaken with children highlighted that they felt they would be able to play more if safer ways were in place to cross roads to go out/get around. This suggests that localised work needs to take place to highlight to local residents the different type of play opportunities that are available near to them, and the walking / cycle routes near to these in order to encourage further use of these to access play opportunities safely.

Comments

A Public Health Consultant has set up a task and finish group on Active Travel in the Vale which feeds into the Public Service Board. It would be useful to make the group aware of the Play Sufficiency Assessment requirements as this could help to drive the agenda forward. This will be progressed as an action within the Play Action Plan moving forward.

The link to the Vale of Glamorgan Local Transport plan is:

<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/LTP/Local-Transport-Plan.pdf>

The link to information regarding Cycling in the Vale section of the Vale of Glamorgan Council website and the Cycle the Vale website are:

<http://www.visitthevale.com/en/Be-Inspired/Cycling/Vale-Cycling.aspx>

Some information regarding Active Travel including local cycle routes can be found at the following link:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/consultation/previous-consultations/Active-Travel.aspx

Information, publicity, events

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

Please see information in the statement boxes above.

As highlighted above there are a range of partners who are working together to promote access to play through positive promotion of activities, events, local spaces to play and ways that families can undertake low cost / no cost play together. There is regular signposting between the various services. Mechanisms such as the Family Information Service and the Index have been vital in sharing information regarding opportunities available. They have a large following on social media but also have direct links to families through e-mail distribution links e.g. the Index has been a useful tool for directly promoting the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme to the families of disabled children and young people through e-mail bulletins and the quarterly Index newsletter. The Family Information Service produce an online Holiday Activities Programme of all playschemes, events and activities taking place during the school summer holidays which is an invaluable resource for families.

A number of events have been organised as a partnership between various partners including the Healthy Living Team, and the Family Information Service which have promoted play to the local community. These include:

- National Play Day at Romilly Park, Barry
- Dinas Powys Family Sports & Play Day
- 'Picnic and Play' at Barry Kings Square during the summer holidays
- Easter Under the Eastern Shelter at Barry Island, where 'Almost Always Muddy' attended to promote inclusive play.
- Family Fun day at St Athan Community Centre
- Family Fun Day at Ysgol Y Deri for children with additional needs and their families
- Sensory play workshop at Barry library

All of these were promoted as free, open access opportunities which provided those attending with a variety of play ideas that they could take away and undertake together as a family.

Flying Start must facilitate a certain amount of events as stated in the Flying Start guidance, where the theme is usually based around the core elements of the programme. Usually within each event teams highlight their services via play activities i.e. Early Years.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

There are a number of events that take place in the Vale organised by a variety of internal Vale departments and external organisations. Many of these organisations work together on these events. However there are still examples of events being delivered separately by internal departments and external organisations which are targeted at the same communities/groups with similar intended outcomes. These are often delivered within a similar timeframe e.g. during the school holidays. In order to maximise the use of limited resources, ensure higher participation, ensure greater success with promoting opportunities and ensure there is an even spread of events across the Vale, it is important that wherever possible more organisations work in partnership when developing events and do not run them in isolation.

Comments:

The Healthy Living Team work in partnership with a variety of internal departments who promote the play services available and this has led to increased access to play provision for limited periods of time for children in identified groups who may have otherwise not accessed this provision. This includes children from families at risk and disabled children. However, these opportunities are often time limited due to limited resources and the circumstances which some of the children are facing. There is therefore an ongoing need to continue to work together to make use of the information available to promote access to play.

The link to the Vale of Glamorgan website play page is:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Sports-and-Play/Play-Development.aspx>

The Vale's Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) Joanne Jones was interviewed by ITV Cymru Wales as part of the Outdoor Classrooms initiative. Jo took the opportunity to talk about the positive benefits of outdoor play. Please see below for the link to the interview.

<https://www.facebook.com/PlayWales/videos/272632103395850/>

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.	

Please note that whilst we refer to the ‘Play Development Team’ throughout this document, with the exception of the Healthy Living Officer (Play), the remaining team members are only employed via a recruitment agency on a casual, as and when needed basis, usually during school holidays.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings						
	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork force from within the Council, however this information is not stored centrally. It is maintained by the individual internal teams.</p> <p>The Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership supplies an on-line training system in which childcare providers from across Vale organisations can book training. The system allows for providers to input data on qualifications, staff etc. However this is a</p>	<p>There is no capacity within the Vale Council to create a Training and Qualifications database for all individuals from different organisations who work within play settings.</p> <p>As the majority of staff used for school holiday playschemes</p>	<p><i>Increasing capacity to deliver more play opportunities</i></p> <p>G1: Develop the Play infrastructure within the Local Authority, increasing capacity within the Healthy Living Team to enable more development opportunities, in</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>voluntary system and not specifically captured by the EYDCP team.</p> <p>Since the last PSA, the Play Team has completed a successful CIW registration process for the Families First Holiday Club. As part of this process they have to obtain and retain up to date information regarding the qualifications and ongoing training of each playworker. As an additional monitoring review of this area, the Families First Monitoring Officer undertakes annual checks around the workforce such as DBS checks, qualifications and safeguarding training. This information is retained. As every playworker employed by the team may work within the Holiday Club, this information would be collected for all staff members.</p> <p>The majority of the staff are recruited through Randstad and Acorn Recruitment agencies. As part of the agreement with these agencies they undertake the necessary checks in relation to DBS, e-learning, safeguarding and other training, and keep records of this. These records are available to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. As part of the CIW registration process the LA had to include a management structure organisation chart.</p>	<p>delivered by the Vale Council are agency staff, it is often the case that different staff members are provided to work. A consistency of staff cannot be guaranteed. However, there is a core group of staff who are employed via the recruitment agencies who have worked for the playschemes for a number of years.</p>	<p>addition to more delivery of opportunities. A Play Development Worker is appointed.</p> <p>G2: The implementation of the Community Play Ambassadors project to support young people to through training, qualifications and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>G3: The Vale of Glamorgan Council to work in partnership with Agored Cymru to deliver playwork training (L2App and MAHPS) to potential staff and volunteers working in play and childcare settings across the Vale.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Flying Start have a record of all staff qualifications and training, however these are not required to be play specific.		
	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards	RED	AMBER	<p>The Local Authority works closely with Play Wales and Agored Cymru to ensure the workforce achieve the appropriate qualifications required. Examples of training that have been undertaken include the L2 App and MAHPS course. These have been funded through a variety of partners including the EYDCP, Agored Cymru and Welsh Government. Individuals who attended these courses came from a range of organisations including the Vale Council playworkers, staff from Evenlode Afterschool Club, Palmerston Afterschool Club, Menter Bro Morgannwg, Rhondda Cynon Taff Council, Cardiff Council, staff members from private afterschool clubs and representatives from Rhoose Homework Club</p> <p>The Local Authority has also supported the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) to update relevant qualifications to meet new legislation and also to obtain the tutor qualification to be able to train playworkers. This has assisted in increasing the number of qualified playworkers available to work. An added, unintentional benefit of the Senior Healthy Living Officer obtaining the tutor</p>	<p>Training opportunities are available through the EYDCP. However as these also target childminders and childcare providers the courses may not always be available when playwork staff have been recruited.</p> <p>Due to the lack of ongoing playwork roles and the sporadic nature of funding for play programmes it is difficult to attract people into playwork as a career. The length of time taken to complete the courses, coupled with the lack of playwork opportunities available means that it is still difficult to maintain and develop a qualified play</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>qualification was that during the delivery of courses they were able to meet and form relationships with new organisations and individuals delivering play and playwork in the Vale and Cardiff.</p> <p>Where appropriate the Vale of Glamorgan Council has worked with Cardiff Council to offer places on respective training courses. Examples include Cardiff play staff attending the Vale MAHPS course.</p> <p>When funding has become available generic courses such as the following have been organised to support the play workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatric First Aid • Epi-Pen training • Autistic Spectrum awareness training • ADHD awareness training • Child Protection <p>The EYDCP have been supportive in funding some of the opportunities identified above for playwork staff.</p> <p>Training is also available through the Children's Care Learning and Development Level 3-5 qualification.</p>	<p>workforce. This makes it more difficult to meet the National Minimum Standards.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive	RED	AMBER	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges the importance of the workforce obtaining the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive and supports this wherever possible. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) has been supported to obtain the P3 qualification in line with the qualifications levels set out by SkillsActive and to enable registration with CIW.</p> <p>Partnership working with other organisations has also assisted with this.</p> <p>The Children's Care Learning and Development Level 3-5 qualification (CCLD) is available through the EYDCP.</p>	<p>There is no set budget within the play service linked to workforce development. Therefore opportunities are taken through partnership working and sharing resources with partners.</p> <p>Please see above points</p>	
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	RED	AMBER	<p>Whilst there is currently no staff development budget ring fenced specifically for play, the various partners involved are pooling resources to ensure that appropriate training can be accessed by those who need to e.g. the Person Centred training recently delivered by Flying Start has been accessed by the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play).</p> <p>The playwork force are able to access training such as the MAHPS and L2App through e.g. the EYDCP and other funding sources such as Agored Cymru / Play Wales.</p>	<p>On occasions, funding is sourced through the Vale Council internal budgets. However due to budget constraints and the uncertainty of budgets it is difficult to strategically plan the workforce development programme.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The EYDCP provide a range of appropriate generic courses relevant to play settings such as first aid, safeguarding, food hygiene. There are also opportunities to access training more specific to working with children with identified needs through the EYDCP, Flying Start, Ysgol Y Deri and the Families First training programme. Courses include Attachment & Trauma in Early Years and Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA).</p> <p>Another example of partners working together to ensure staff have access to relevant courses and CPD include the Early Bird Plus course which was run by Ysgol Y Deri. This course was accessible to parents whose children have a diagnosis of autism and professionals such as playworkers who are working with children with autism and their parents.</p> <p>There are also online e-learning opportunities for areas such as disability awareness and courses around specific disabilities which are available free of charge individuals within organisations in the Vale.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	RED	AMBER	<p>Please see the above three points which provide examples of this.</p> <p>The Vale Council places value on play staff obtaining CPD through ongoing mentoring and informal support whilst undertaking their playwork role. Examples of this include experienced staff being buddied with new staff. Also informal opportunities to share positive practice and be provided with the opportunity to be involved in improving processes and practice.</p> <p>The Senior Healthy Living Officer often works alongside other qualified playworkers from outside of the county to share expertise and good practice. This includes attending the All Wales Play network. The Officer has supported Cardiff's Children Play Services staff member with mentoring and practical experience to enable the staff member to gain her Forest School Level 2 qualification. The Officer has also supported Cardiff Children's Play Services in the transition of their service from a building based provision to an outdoor community based provision.</p> <p>Examples of cross departmental CPD for playworkers include play staff accessing Disability Sport Inclusion training and Mental Health Awareness training.</p>	There are currently no opportunities delivered by the Vale Council through the medium of Welsh. However, the Local Authority has been in discussions with Menter Bro Morgannwg in relation to opportunities to share training resources.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) is able to deliver introductory Stepping into Play courses which have been specifically developed for parents and volunteers working in community based playwork settings. The Officer is also able to offer mentoring opportunities, although these are limited due to capacity issues.</p> <p>All volunteers who are working within playschemes are provided access to the same courses as paid staff (as identified above). A Communities First volunteer who previously volunteered on the playschemes has now progressed onto becoming a paid member of play staff.</p> <p>Volunteers from the St Athan Saints project were provided with training to enable them to successfully deliver Family Fun Days in their community, concentrating on play opportunities to engage the community. They were also provided the knowledge to develop their skills around risk assessment.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) has also supported the Rhoose Homework Club. They are an existing organisation who wanted to expand the opportunities for the children and young people in the Rhoose area through the delivery of play opportunities. The Healthy Living Team ran</p>	Capacity prevents more of this work taking place. The Healthy Living Officer (Play) are working with Play Wales and Cardiff Play Services on a bid to the Healthy & Active Fund to implement a volunteer programme, Play Ambassadors', aimed at 14 – 19 year olds to identify, develop and train future volunteers and playworkers.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>play sessions alongside the Rhoose Homework club staff and volunteers to give them the confidence and knowledge to deliver their own play programme. Four members of the Rhoose Homework Club were supported to undertake the L2 app course and three were supported with the MAHPS play course. They then volunteered within the Vale play programme to obtain the practical experience to compliment the theory learnt on the courses. All of the volunteers were successful on completing the course and they are now in a position to run their own holiday provision.</p> <p>The Cosmeston Park Rangers deliver workshops to children around outdoor play and activities including pond dipping, nature walks, bug hunts, den building and fire lighting. These are also attended by the parent and Group Leaders such as Scout, Brownies, Cubs and Guide Leaders. These provide an informal learning opportunity for the parents and volunteers who can replicate the activities with their children on other occasions.</p> <p>Please see above boxes in relation to other courses on offer which would also apply to volunteers and parents.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	RED	AMBER	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council Workforce plan does not make specific reference to play workforce areas. There is no specific budget allocated for play training. However training is held when funding becomes available and when there is demand. The Local Authority works in partnership with other local authorities and organisations to share training opportunities.</p> <p>The EYDCP are supportive of enabling access to the required training by individuals involved in the delivery of play.</p>	<p>When funding has become available it is usually through time limited funding such as the Welsh Government Increasing Play Opportunities funding. Whilst this funding is welcome, the timeframe in which the funding has to be spent does not facilitate the implementation of an effective training programme. The training has to be organised at short notice and completed within a short timeframe so the take up is not always high.</p> <p>Issues identified in relation to retention of workforce affects the number of individuals who are willing to invest their time to obtain play training</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>qualifications.</p> <p>The Sports & Play Development Team staff are able to and have accessed generic training such as child protection & play specific training delivered through the EYDCP. However due to the sporadic nature of playwork in the Vale, agency staff are used who are employed on an 'as and when needed basis'. This limits the opportunity to identify staff who will be available when required and who will remain within the sector to undertake training at times when it is being delivered.</p>	
	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	AMBER	Please see above boxes.	The Welsh Government funded Sustainable Play project delivered previously by	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					Groundwork Wales aimed to provide sustainable play provision in communities. The project was to include the delivery of play workshops to partner organisations and volunteers in communities with the aim of them sustaining provision. We are not aware of any of this provision continuing after the project ceased.	
<p>Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.</p>						
	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above	RED	AMBER	<p>An annual training needs assessment is carried out via the EYDCP group before the start of the financial year and an appropriate programme of training is implemented.</p> <p>In relation to the Play Development Team the training needs are usually assessed before the summer holidays and any gaps in training identified are managed.</p>	As the Play Development Team are employed through an agency on a sporadic basis, the same staff members are not always available. As some of the provision delivered is registered with CIW it is important the Healthy Living Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the Community Play Ambassadors projects to support young people to become 'play ambassadors' through training, qualifications and volunteering opportunities with the aim of facilitating neighbourhood play

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>(Play) regularly assesses training needs. This is undertaken in conjunction with Randstad Employment Agency.</p> <p>As the playworkers are employed via Agency, they are not always in post when the EYDCP training programme is being organised. Therefore the programme is not always a successful indicator of training needs by playworkers.</p> <p>The Workforce Analysis template suggested as part of the PSA was not used due to the lack of responses when using it previously. Other mechanisms as indicated have been used instead.</p> <p>With the lack of playworkers in the</p>	<p>based interventions to get children active through playing.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>Vale due to the limited provision being delivered, it is difficult to undertake a meaningful training needs assessment. The majority of individuals in the Vale work in childcare as opposed to playwork and it is important to recognise that these are two different areas of work.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff.</p> <p>There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children</p>	AMBER	AMBER	<p>When required and resources are available the Healthy Living Officer (play) will organise the following type of short course training opportunities for qualified and unqualified playworkers and community volunteers (although this training is usually limited to delivery prior to the summer playschemes due to funding reasons):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Playwork • Child Protection • First aid • Manual handling • Health & Safety • Disability Sport Leaders • L2 App • MAHPS 	<p>More learning and development opportunities could be offered if there was more capacity in relation to the play staffing infrastructure to be able to organise and deliver such opportunities on a more regular basis.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The Flying Start Workforce have access to full CPD opportunities linked to play and children’s development. CPD delivered via Early Years and Advisory Teacher team. CPD linked to ALN, Muddy Kitchens, Child Development, Forest Schools.</p> <p>Since the previous PSA there has been progress with delivering play related qualifications in the Vale as indicated earlier in the document.</p> <p>The EYDCP offer opportunities as described above. They are also open to supporting bespoke training opportunities if the needs arises e.g. the Pathological Demand Avoidance course was organised following suggestion from the Healthy Living Officer (Play) who was encountering more children with this condition within the service area.</p> <p>Corporate online learning modules have been developed which can be accessed by internal and external staff. These include disability specific modules to assist with the inclusion of disabled children into provision. These online modules are open to both play and non-play staff.</p> <p>Mentor Bro Morgannwg offer the staff who deliver within their Carescheme and open</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>access playscheme access to training including Child Protection, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Play.</p> <p>8 youth workers undertook training on wellbeing activities using the outdoor environment in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales.</p> <p>A variety of CPD courses which are updated on a regular basis are made available to all childcare providers in the Vale.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) has been undertaking informal mentoring opportunities with teachers and LSA's in Romilly, Cadoxton and Gladstone Schools in relation to play.</p> <p>There has also been informal learning as a result of the partnership between the Play Development Team and Ysgol Y Deri staff. The Play Development have benefited from working alongside the Ysgol Y Deri who have a vast knowledge around working with disabled children and coping strategies whilst the Play team have shared their knowledge around play. This has proved to be a mutually beneficial partnership.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play</p>	AMBER	AMBER	<p>A PSA workshop has taken place attended by a variety of professionals who can have an impact on a child's ability to play. Participants included planners, Public Health Team, South Wales Police, Menter Bro Morgannwg, Town and Community Councillors, Healthy & Safety staff and other internal staff members. The workshop was facilitated by Play Wales and centred around raising awareness of the impact that different staff roles and departments can have on a child's ability to play. The Ecological Systems Approach was used to stimulate thoughts and discussion around this area. Future workshops will be held to stimulate more thought on how non-play staff impacts on a child's ability</p> <p>The Play Development service ensures the relevant individuals within and external to the Council are provided with the relevant Play Wales information sheets e.g. planning, education and traffic.</p> <p>During e.g. events the Play Development Team delivers a range of play opportunities for children and families. Informal awareness raising is taking place. These are often delivered in conjunction with non-play partners. Therefore provide a platform to discuss and debate the importance of play.</p>	<p>It is often difficult to persuade non-play staff to give up a specific amount of time for play training, even if they do understand the value of play due to capacity issues. Therefore the informal mechanisms mentioned and the use of the Play publications produced by Play Wales prove useful.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Whilst training awareness sessions are not regularly delivered, awareness raising around the importance of play is taking place via informal mechanisms including through meetings with e.g. Town & Community Councils and through attendance at events where e.g. Cllrs often attend.</p> <p>Porthkerry County Park Rangers offered training to teachers and LSA's to encourage them to use the outside for outdoor learning, with a focus on woodlands and ponds. This is helping to increase children's access to outdoor play type activities. They also plan on running a similar session focussing on activities that can be undertaken on the beach.</p>		

Securing and developing the play workforce

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

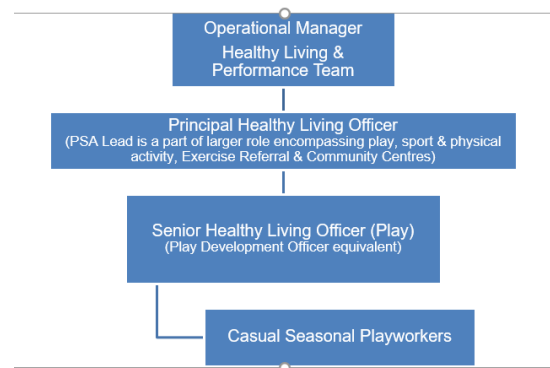
The Local Authority invests in a play infrastructure to ensure that play is progressed within the Vale. This includes a Principal Healthy Living Officer whose role includes overseeing the play discipline. The Local Authority also part-funds the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) who is responsible for implementing the play programme. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) also delivers training courses.

To support the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) agency staff are recruited on a casual basis to deliver the play programme. During the school summer holidays agency staff include:

- 3/4 staff members working on the Play Ranger sessions
- up to 30 staff on the Families First Holiday Club (playscheme for disabled children and young people)
- up to 7 staff working on each community based playscheme
- up to 2 staff members assisting with the administration of the projects

The employment of these additional staff members obviously bring many benefits and enable these projects to take place. However having to employ casual agency staff does also create additional work for the Principal and Senior Health Living Officers in relation to recruitment, management, arrangements of payments, arrangement and delivery of training, mentoring and support.

The local authority structure relating to the management and development of play specifically is as follows:



Due to the limited permanent staff within the team, it is essential these Officers work in partnership with both internal departments and external partners to progress with meeting the play needs in the community. This includes sharing physical and financial resources as well as supporting each other through e.g. events and workshops.

Where available, the Local Authority does allocate some funding to a play budget although this is not always confirmed until part-way through the financial year. Therefore as part of their role, the Principal Healthy Living Officer and Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) will work to secure additional funding with partners to enable a play programme to be delivered. As mentioned earlier in the document such funding sources include Families First, Town and Community Councils, Housing Associations and the Out of School Childcare grant. The service also gains income through charging for attendance at events and for delivering sessions, although this usually only covers the cost of resources and staff. The cost charged to internal departments and external organisations for the play team to attend events / sessions is minimal to ensure affordability and enable the play team to showcase play and playwork informally during events and sessions.

Due to the limited play infrastructure in the authority the Senior Health Living Officer (Play) currently undertakes both a strategic and delivery role. This limits the amount of the provision delivered. Therefore work is progressing on securing funding through the Children and Communities to employ a Play Development Worker who will undertake a delivery role. This will enable the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) to concentrate on the more strategic elements. This will clearly then build capacity within the team and help the authority increase sufficiency of provision.

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

The Local Authority ensures that it is compliant with the National Minimum Standards both in registered and non-registered settings as highlighted above. The attendance of the Principal and Senior Healthy Living Officers at the All Wales Strategic Play Network meetings and other relevant network meetings ensures that the Vale are kept up to date with current legislation and requirements, as well as sharing good practice across authorities. This forum has also enabled us to share issues around staffing and the play workforce generally, and discuss potential solutions.

The recent introduction of the L2App and Managing a Holiday Playscheme (MAHPS) qualification which is recognised on the SkillsActive framework has enabled the local authority to further increase the number of qualified playworkers in the area. Prior to these qualifications the local authority ran the Introduction to Playwork qualification which was useful. However as the L2App and MAHPS are recognised on the SkillActive framework more value and commitment is placed on them by staff completing the courses. The addition of the L2App and MAHPS qualifications has encouraged more people to have a willingness to attend playwork training. This has been welcomed by the play workforce and is particularly relevant to the Vale who employ a high number of casual staff who would otherwise struggle to attend longer courses to gain playwork qualifications. These courses have also assisted with widening the awareness of the benefits of play outside of the play workforce as more non-play staff are attending these training courses and taking the information learnt into their settings and homes e.g. schools.

As mentioned above in terms of Playworkers and staff working within both private and local authority childcare settings, the Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership carry out an annual training needs assessment before the start of the financial year. However this is not always a successful indicator of training needs by playworkers as layworkers are often in place during this period of time to be consulted. However, to meet the needs of CIW registered and un-registered providers, a suite of courses are provided on Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding, food safety etc. along with other relevant CPD training courses.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

In the 2016 PSA the challenge of identifying enough staff willing to attend play training and commit to working / volunteering during the school holiday periods was identified. This has improved since 2016 with the introduction of the L2App and MAHPS courses. However there is still some reticence amongst existing and potential playstaff as there are still only limited work available opportunities available in the work sector. Many people have indicated that whilst they would like to commit to a play profession, unfortunately the lack of career opportunities within this sector is preventing more of these individuals pursuing this as a career pathway. We are able to identify suitable staff who have the skills to be trained in play work, however many of these work within the education sector and are seeking a few hours of additional employment rather than being able to commit for the full holidays. They also do not want to work during school term time which limits the number of staff we can access should funding be identified to run additional projects during term time. Other avenues of recruitment have been considered including recruiting from the within the childcare workforce who often do not work during school holidays. This has not been particularly successful.

As the playworkers are recruited on a casual basis, the local authority has to pay for the actual training in addition to paying for their time to attend training. The local authority is happy to invest in staff training, however as the staff are casual agency workers it is often difficult to retain staff so there is always the need for ongoing training costs. If there was the opportunity to offer more secure work, this issue may be prevented or limited.

The local authority invest in the delivery of a comprehensive training programme which provides recognised training qualifications such as the L2App, MAHPS, First Aid and Child Protection. This is positive for the local authority and staff members. However as this provides the staff members with a number of recognised qualifications this means that quite often we lose them to other organisations in jobs which offer more regular hours of work and more security. This again leads to the need to recruit more staff and start the training cycle again.

Whilst the importance of training volunteers and parents is acknowledged, it is recognised that the majority of these do not want to take on the sole responsibility of delivering play opportunities. Therefore qualified play staff are required to offer ongoing support to volunteers and help to sustain the provision. There is not currently capacity within the Vale infrastructure to support a full volunteer programme. The local authority is working with Play Wales and Cardiff Council to secure funding to develop a volunteer programme for young people 14 – 19 years called Play Ambassadors. The project is seeking funding from the Healthy and Active funding stream to recruit, train and mentor a number of young play ambassadors to support children playing in local communities across a three year period. If successful the project will seek to secure over 50 volunteers across the two authorities and will employ a Volunteer Support Worker assist these volunteers. This project is being led by Play Wales who will be supported by the relevant Officers in each authority alongside the Cardiff & Vale Public Health team.

Comments

Case study to demonstrate the impact of the local authority training and mentoring programme

A young person was identified as a potential volunteer on a partnership project between the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) and with Legacy Leisure, who manage the Vale leisure centres. The project was aimed at parents who wanted to use the leisure facilities but had no childcare. Therefore the play team ran some play sessions for the young children whilst their parents undertook their activity. The volunteer identified was undertaking a University course at the time in a non-play related topic. Following the success of his volunteering at this opportunity he was invited to volunteer on the summer programme. This inspired him to want to work within the play sector and he therefore changed his career pathway. He applied for and secured a part-time role within the afterschool club at a local primary school, in addition to supporting children on a 1:1 basis in school. He is now currently undertaking a playworker apprenticeship and progressing with completing the P3 qualification. He also continues to be a valued member of the Play Development team working for the local authority in the school holiday programmes.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

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

RAG Status

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

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.</p> <p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Flying Start must facilitate a certain amount of events as stated in the Flying Start guidance, where the theme is usually based around the core elements of the programme. Usually within each event teams highlight their services via play activities i.e. Early Years.</p> <p>As highlighted in the Consultation Section earlier in the document, the Local Authority seeks to gain active input from local residents in relation to improvements in play space that could potentially take place through e.g. S106 funding.</p> <p>The St Athan Saints group undertook extensive consultation on the new play area undertaking community mapping exercises with children in the primary school. They</p>	<p>The community mapping work undertaken as part of the projects organised by Creative Rural Communities identified a lack of children's play facilities and activities in the 3 target communities of St Athan, Wenvoe and Rhoose. Work has progressed on developing these opportunities as highlighted in this document although this could potentially</p>	<p><i>Undertake a collaborative planned approach to a campaign of promoting positive attitudes to play, the benefits of play and the range of play opportunities available</i></p> <p>H1: A Communications Plan is produced by a Task & Finish Group identifying a variety of no / low cost promotional opportunities to ensure a wide reach of the campaign.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>have also been supported to run their own community fun days and play activities.</p> <p>Positive articles are included and shared on social media to promote the positive benefits of play. Relevant Play Wales posts are shared to support this.</p> <p>The Play Sufficiency Assessment workshop mentioned in the Partnerships Section earlier in this document was a useful tool to raise the importance of play amongst professional who can impact on play opportunities. The sharing of Play Wales ‘Focus on...’ publications is also assisting with this.</p> <p>Play Ranger projects and events that are run as a partnership between the Play and Sports section within the Healthy Living team and Town & Community Councils have assisted in promoting outdoor play and positive attitudes to children playing in the community. They have also encouraged some communities to think about looking after their own open spaces e.g. more aware of litter and dog poop affecting children’s play</p> <p>Play activities are delivered at various events which are organised in conjunction with a variety of partners including the Local Authority Events Officer, Neighbourhood Services Parks section and local Rotary Club</p>	<p>be progressed if resources allow.</p> <p>The Play section of the Council’s website could potentially be developed further to promote the importance of play and creating a playful communities</p>	<p><i>Demonstrate that the local authority is taking into account the information gained from consultations to improve play opportunities available in the Vale of Glamorgan.</i></p> <p>H2: Produce a ‘You Said - We Did’ report at end of year to highlight to the public and partners how the plan is working towards overcoming some of the barriers to play raised during consultation.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

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				<p>to encourage children and families to play together. These events include National Play Day, Rotary Club of Barry Fun Day and Duck Race and Pumpkins in the Park event.</p> <p>The Family Information Service are proactive in promoting positive attitudes and ideas around play, regularly posting information articles on their social media and encouraging play during events.</p> <p>The Local Authority Healthy Living team has an area on the Council website dedicated to play information which includes the benefits of play and making use of the Vale's fantastic natural environment for play.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) is able to deliver Stepping into Play introductory training to community groups, internal departments, schools and other organisations.</p> <p>Some of the projects funded through Welsh Government Play funding identified in the Maximising Resources section of this document are positive examples of promoting and supporting initiatives to engage others in facilitating play. These include the Ysgol Y Deri Playground project, Palmerston Afterschool Club, Gibbonsdown Children Centre and Oshi's World project.</p>		

Community engagement and participation.

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

Please see the section related to consultation at the beginning of the document. Mechanisms include:

- utilising information obtained through the work of the Creative Rural Communities team through projects such as the Community Mapping. The development of the community mapping toolkit as part of this project has provided a useful mechanism for encouraging wider community engagement and could be utilised for future consultation relating to play. There are a number of engagement exercises within the toolkit which have proved invaluable undertaking community engagement work with children and young people.
- utilising information from surveys and consultations undertaken by Town and Community Councils
- utilising information from consultation undertaken by the Family Information Service, which includes consultation with families of disabled children through the Index.
- including additional questions in the Viewpoint survey undertaken with children and young people to include questions relating to play
- utilising the evaluation obtained from the families of children attending the Families First Holiday club

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?




Progress has been made within the Vale in regards to internal departments and external organisation sharing information about the results obtained from consultations. These consultations are not necessarily play specific, however information gathered has highlighted areas relating to play e.g. traffic speed preventing children from playing out in villages. The sharing of such information needs to continue and could be improved further. Also more time needs to be spent on reviewing the information obtained from these consultations and ensuring that those who are consulted with are reported back to in relation to what actions have been put in place and to highlight if their viewpoints have been listened to.

The local authority has an Engagement Database which provides an overview of engagement and consultation projects that have been completed over the past 12 months. This database has been a useful tool for seeing what consultation has taken place and gaining access to the results, some of which have linked to play. For examples, the consultation undertake as part of the Rhoose Community Facilities survey had links to access to play and leisure. This could continue to be a useful tool but only if consultation information is uploaded by all sections within the authority.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

RAG Status

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

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan	AMBER	AMBER	There are a number of actions set out in the Public Service Board’s Well-being Plan which are focused on the provision of play opportunities in the Vale. Each of these actions will be taken forward by a dedicated lead officer. Specifically, Well-being Objective 3 of the Plan is focussed on Giving Children the Best Start in Life, this Objective will be taken forward by the Local Authority, with the Director of Learning and Skills the lead officer.	There is not currently a named person who sits on the Public Service Board who is responsible for monitoring and championing the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan.	<i>A stronger ‘voice for play’ is realised and is positively impacting on improving and increasing children’s access to quality play opportunities in the Vale.</i> I1: A named person on the Public Service Board is identified who will champion play and ensure that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contributes to and are incorporated within the Wellbeing plan.
	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	As explained in the section entitled ‘The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans’ there are a number of actions within the Public Service Board’s Well-being Plan which recognise the importance of play and will work to secure the provision of adequate play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. Some of these are identified in the introduction and Matter A.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
						I2: Encourage more collaboration in relation to the development and promotion of play opportunities, and a more co-ordinated approach to tackling priority areas to assist with driving the agenda forward, by re-introducing the Play Sufficiency Steering Group.

Education and schools

All schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were provided with the opportunity to feedback in relation to this section. 15 primary schools and 2 secondary schools responded. These were High Street, Holton Road, Jenner Park, Llandough, Pen-y-Garth, Peterston-Super-Ely, St Brides Major C/W Primary School St Cyres, St Davids, St Helens, St Nicholas, St Illtyd, Victoria, Wick & Marcross, Y Bont Faen, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Gymreag Bro Morgannwg. Their feedback has been used to assist in informing this section.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	AMBER	AMBER	All of the schools who responded felt they met this criteria. A number identified the presence of Play Leaders as a positive contributor to this. The Playmakers Leadership course is targeted at	A Health Impact Assessment of the duration and timing of school lunch-breaks in Cardiff and the Vale in maintained schools	<i>There is an increased understanding of the importance of protecting time for play in schools.</i>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>pupils in year 5 and 6 to provide them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to organise fun physical activity and play activities for the younger pupils in their school during breaktimes. A number of schools in the Vale have taken up this opportunity over the past few years. Since April 2018 pupils from the following schools have received the training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street • St Jospeh’s • Fairfield • St Helens • Gwenfo • St Illtyd • Wick • Llanfair • Rhws • Ysgol y Ddraig • Iolo Morgannwg <p>This course is delivered free of charge by the Sports Development section of the Healthy Living Team. Feedback from St Helens Primary School highlighted how the Play leaders are a vital part of pupil voice encouraging positive play and monitoring safe and effective use of equipment available during breaktimes. High Street Primary also see this as a useful resource for developing play opportunities during breaktimes.</p>	<p>was undertaken in September 2016 by Public Health Wales, who published an accompanying report. This report, together with local knowledge, highlighted that the times allocated to lunchbreaks in Vale schools has been decreasing. The report included peer-reviewed literature highlighting the negative impacts of shortened school lunch-breaks on children and young people’s participation in physical activity and levels of physical literacy, impacts on food choices and reduction in fruit and vegetable consumption and time available for participation in play opportunities.</p>	<p>I3: A Task & Finish Group will develop a co-ordinated approach encompassing areas such as Play Makers training and Play Wales resources to increase the variety of play activities available to primary age children during their school breaks.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Numerous schools have indicated they have purchased equipment for use during break and lunch times. A number have also invested in climbing frames, multi-use games areas, traversing walls, basketball hoops and fitness trails. Examples include St Brides Church in Wales Primary who invested in a Pirate Adventure Ship and Ysgol Dewi Sant who provide bikes, play equipment and footballs. At this school when the weather restricts access to the outdoors all classes have access to games and resources. There are also 3 weekly lunchtime groups - lego and crafts with targeted pupils as part of ELSA/Nurture programme.</p> <p>Jenner Park Primary have recently invested in new equipment whilst St David's Primary have a shed of toy equipment, have a Trim trail, field, an active zone and chill zone with books. Schools have identified different sources to fund this equipment including the PTA and school fundraising. St Nicholas Primary have highlighted how the School Council are currently fundraising for zoned equipment.</p> <p>Pupil voice is an important part of this action. Schools have provided examples of how pupils help shape the opportunities available. For example the School Senedd in Llandough Primary meet to suggest ways to improve the environment of the school whilst the School</p>	<p>An example in the report states that one school with a short lunch-time offers no lunch-time activities but has a comprehensive after-school programme of activities instead. Although this may cover organised activity (of which not all children will participate) the shorter break times prevent active play and informal activity which is vital to all children's development, both socially and physically. This also prevents those who are not able to stay afterschool from participating.</p> <p>It is also recognised that lunch-times are shorter in schools across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff in areas of</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Council in Peterston Super Ely Primary often lead on discussions in relation to reviewing the equipment available during playtimes.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools National Quality Award Food and Fitness and Safety aspects cover encouraging active travel and providing at least 2 hours a week of physical activity, which can include play.</p>	<p>socio-economic deprivation.</p> <p>A few schools in the Vale have only concrete play areas, of which they make good use. However, they lack the contrast in different surfaces and opportunities which many Vale schools have. There is a lack of varied textured environments for children's play in some schools.</p>	
	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	RED	AMBER	<p>16 schools highlighted that they met this criteria by providing afterschool clubs which are delivered by staff, parent volunteers and external agencies such as Superstars. St Brides Church in Wales highlighted how their school was hired by community groups and was used on the weekend for Cross Country events.</p> <p>St David's Primary which is in a rural area of the Vale indicated they did not provide this provision afterschool. However they noted that many parents stayed behind afterschool to allow their children to play on the field and the</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Trim Trail. They highlighted that the majority of families made more use of the Village Hall which is located across the road, which has a new far superior MUGA & play area, which will shortly be upgraded.</p> <p>A shipping container with outdoor play equipment was previously secured through Welsh Government funding for Llangan Primary School. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) supported the school with this project. This equipment is still being used by the children and young people in the village to access activities.</p>		
	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	<p>11 of the schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school time. However only Peterston Super Ely Primary allow open access. Their school grounds are open for the community to access at all times. They are able to use the football pitches, activity trails and playground markings. This is particularly important in a rural area such as this where access to play facilities is limited.</p> <p>All other schools who positively responded to this statement only allowed supervised access through afterschool clubs and community groups, who are often linked to the schools e.g. Menter Bro Morgannwg and the URDD are able to access the facilities at Ysgol Gymaeg Bro Morgannwg.</p>	It is often very difficult to access school facilities for a variety of reasons including fear of vandalism and/or misappropriate use of the school grounds out of school times, building works being undertaken and security of the school buildings. This is an issue for the Healthy Living Team who struggle to identify school facilities where they can deliver playschemes during	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Ysgol Y Deri Special School have undertaken a pilot to open up their playgrounds to families with disabled children during the school holidays. This pilot was a success and it is hoped this will continue and expand.</p> <p>There are a number of care settings (which include access to play opportunities) included on the Family Information Service database who have use of school facilities and school grounds out of school hours, although a number of these pay for use of the facilities.</p>	<p>school holidays.</p> <p>There are a limited number of schools in the Vale who provide access to school playing grounds out of school time for playing, although a large number still lock their playgrounds during out of school hours.</p> <p>There is often a cost associated with using school facilities such as sports halls & 3G pitches.</p> <p>Through the Welsh Government funding, resource books were purchased for distribution to schools to encourage them to open up their grounds for playing out of hours and to develop their play spaces. These have still not been distributed as it is</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					important that these are provided as part of a larger project to ensure they are fully understood and utilised. The Healthy Living Team are trying to identify funding to enable the roll out of this project.	
	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	GREEN	GREEN <small>This is identified as green as schools do encourage this although the uptake by parents is not as high as hoped.</small>	<p>16 schools positively responded to this statement. A number of the schools engage with the Road Safety Team and cycle training, and have provided bike / scooter racks. Examples include Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth who provide cycling proficiency training, a bike rack and their Eco club encourages use by displaying posters. Ysgol Dewi Sant have a Road Travel Plan and hold focussed Walk to school events. Their year 6 undertake Cycling Proficiency for Year 6, whilst they have Annual Kerbcraft training for Year 2.</p> <p>Other schools are proactively seeking to improve opportunities such as Jenner Park Primary who are currently investigating costs for installing cycle / scooter racks through Safer Routes to School funding.</p>	<p>St David's Primary encourage this but highlighted that due to their rural location and no safe routes being present, the opportunities are limited.</p> <p>St Nicholas Primary School identified how this was difficult to encourage with 80% of their pupils travelling from outside of the area.</p> <p>Despite the encouragement from schools in relation to undertaking active</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Most Vale schools have a Healthy Schools policy which involves encouraging pupils and parents to walk to school where practicable and safe.</p>	<p>travel options to school, there are still issues with large numbers of families relying on their cars to transport children to school. This means that many children are not experiencing the playful opportunities that come from travelling – it is acknowledged that children do not just walk to a space, they run, skip, jump, and creatively move through and to spaces and explore the environment they are moving through. Therefore children are losing out when they travel to school in cars or buses.</p> <p>This area of work requires a wider, multiagency approach to achieve behaviour change.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	RED	RED	<p>There is no strategic approach to this area and no formal guidance offered. However support is provided by the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) where requested as highlighted below.</p> <p>Following discussion with the School Governors, the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) introduced a Wheelie Bin into All Saints Primary school which was filled with equipment such as bats, balls, hoops, skipping ropes, bean bags etc. 100+ children benefit from using the equipment during their playtimes. The Officer also worked with Y Bont Faen Primary School to increase the quality of play opportunities available during the playtimes. This included consulting with the children to establish their thoughts on the current opportunities available, what they would like and how things could be changed be make their playtimes better. The outcome of the consultation was that the children wanted more loose parts / free play equipment available during the break, which has now been facilitated.</p> <p>Please see above in relation to the number of schools who have been provided with Play Makers training.</p>	<p>It is difficult to establish how to move forward with the issue of reduced breaktimes impacting on time to play as this is a decision that is taken by each individual school. The Local Authority can make suggestions and offer guidance however there is no authority to enforce the schools to implement. The schools have implemented these reduced breaks for a variety of reasons, and there are benefits and negatives related to the introduction of reduced breaks. The reduction clearly negatively impacts on access to play.</p>	

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities	AMBER	GREEN	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (LDP) was formally adopted as the development plan for the Vale of Glamorgan on the 28th June 2017.</p> <p>The LDP includes a range of strategic, managing growth and managing development policies which seek to protect existing recreational and community facilities and increase the provision of open spaces associated with new developments.</p>	<p>None, as the principle land use planning document for the Vale of Glamorgan, the policies contained in the LDP will ensure that existing open space is protected and that new recreational open space is provided in accordance with the adopted open space standards for all new development.</p>	<p><i>There is access to recreational open space and play spaces in new development areas.</i></p> <p>I4: The planning department to ensure that the policies of the LDP are appropriately implemented on all new developments and provide recreational open space in accordance with the stated adopted standards.</p>

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities	AMBER	AMBER	There was no information provided from the relevant internal Council section to be able to assess this area. Therefore the previous assessment status has been used.	Information was not provided to assess this area of work.	
	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.	GREEN	GREEN	There was no information provided from the relevant internal Council section to be able to assess this area. Therefore the previous assessment status has been used.	Information was not provided to assess this area of work.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Early Years Plans						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children	AMBER	GREEN	<p>The EYDCP provide an assisted places childcare scheme which enables children, who may not get the opportunity otherwise, to attend childcare and play opportunities.</p> <p>Detailed planning of activities is in place for all play provision under Flying Start. This covers all areas of learning linked to enhancing children’s development. They also deliver free Pop in and Play sessions for Flying Start families with activities including songs and rhymes, and arts and crafts as well as Mini Movers and Movers & Shakers sessions to encourage physical activity, creative play and dance. All Pop in and Play sessions held within the community are aimed at children aged 0-4years and their families. Sessions model positive play and sessions are planned to encompass all children’s developmental areas. Play sessions are held in the home on a 1:1 basis to cover the importance of play.</p> <p>As part of the Flying Start plan an accreditation has been developed and delivered to parents called “the importance of play in a child’s development” which is a level 1, 1 credit accreditation. All Flying Start family fun events have a strong play ethos.</p>	Securing funding to continue assisted places is always problematic.	

Family policy and initiatives						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Flying Start has developed and delivered training to parents called “The importance of play in a child’s development” which is a level 1, 1 credit accreditation.</p> <p>The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) has worked in partnership with Cadoxton Primary School to support them in the delivery of the Families and Schools Together project. Delivered over a 10 week period the families were supported to develop a whole family ethos utilising play as one of the methods in which to do this. 18 families were involved in the project. The programme helped to build social skills amongst the families and develop their relationships further. Following completion of the project the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) delivered a Play Ranger session to the families during the summer holidays to support and continue to promote the ethos of the scheme.</p> <p>The Sense of Play project supports children aged 0 4yrs, across the Vale of Glamorgan, with disabilities / additional learning needs in their own home. 6 Play sessions are delivered with the child and parent for 1 hour over six weeks in accordance with the needs of the</p>	<p>More family support initiatives such as the project at Cadoxton Primary School could be delivered by the teams such as the Healthy Living Team if additional funding was available to build staffing capacity within the teams. This would be worthwhile as the projects delivered have highlighted benefits.</p>	<p><i>There is increased acknowledgment of the positive contribution that access to play can provide in assisting children who are experiencing adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and health and wellbeing issues.</i></p> <p>15: The Healthy Living Officer (Play) assists Gladstone & Romilly Primary Schools with developing their programme of play to support children who are experiencing health and wellbeing issues.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) supports the Youth Mentors involved in the Emojis project to use play as a</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>child. The project is currently overseen by Flying Start.</p> <p>Many Family Support initiatives signpost families to relevant play provision, particularly the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme for disabled children and young people. There are examples of children being signposted to playschemes by services such as the Team Around The Family team, the Family Information Service, Social Services and the specialist Health Visitor.</p>		<p>mechanism to support children with wellbeing issues.</p> <p>ACEs training is offered to staff and volunteers working with children and young people in play settings.</p>
	<p>The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities</p>	NEW	AMBER	<p>Families First make a significant contribution by funding the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme for disabled children and young people during most school holiday periods. It also makes a significant contribution to the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) post, allowing for strategic development of play in the Vale.</p> <p>This funding stream will shortly become the Children and Community Grant. The introduction of funding within this grant to address gaps in play in relation to staffed play provision will bring positive benefits to the Vale and will lead to increased capacity to deliver more opportunities.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	<p>This will form part of the data collection on all Children and Community Grant projects moving forward. Discussions have already taken place within Families First meetings regarding this area.</p> <p>Flying Start are currently reviewing how ACES information is collated and reported on. The Healthy Living Team and Vale People First are also currently looking at ways of collecting this information within the Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme.</p> <p>Welsh Government Funding has recently been secured to enable Gladstone Primary School to purchase toys and resources to use in a purposefully resourced play centre which will form part of a wellbeing suite. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) is assisting the school with developing the play space and providing advice regarding suitable play activities. This project will provide staff with the resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support vulnerable children to play - use therapeutic play as a way of supporting trauma and ACE affected children with emotions and mental health difficulties - use therapeutic play as a tool to support children to learn how to express their feelings and regulate their emotions 	Lack of resources / staffing / funding for open access play limits the opportunity to provide rich staffed play provision.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				- support vulnerable parents in learning about play and how they can play with their children		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity</p> <p>There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages</p>	RED	AMBER	<p>The playschemes, Play Ranger sessions and Play events delivered encourage intergenerational activity.</p> <p>The Playmakers Leadership course is targeted at pupils in year 5 and 6 to provide them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to organise fun physical activity and play activities for the younger pupils in their school during breaktimes and also within lesson times. A number of schools in the Vale have taken up this opportunity with more than 100 pupils receiving the training over the past few years. This course is delivered by the Sports Development section of the Healthy Living team.</p> <p>There are a few examples of some schools and community groups in the Vale undertaking small scale projects where</p>	The price charged for attending the Parent and Child Activities Together Price may be a reason for low take up. This links to the section regarding cost, whereby cost can often be a barrier to participation.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>young children are visiting residential homes to undertake play activities together with older residents.</p> <p>Creative Rural Communities have funded the Parent and Child Activities Together Project. This involved piloting a range of activities (crafts, exercise / dance, Forest School, cooking and circus skills) in 4 communities in the rural Vale (St Athan, Wenvoe, Rhoose and Ystradowen). The activities which were 'one off sessions' (stained glass and Forest Schools) proved more popular than those running on a weekly basis. A number of activities were cancelled due to low take up (15 out of 26 cancelled). There was a higher take up of activities that were different to those normally undertaken by the children and families. For example, the cookery and dance sessions were not popular, perhaps because the children already attend dance and the families can undertake cookery at home. The more original sessions such as Forest Schools and Stained Glass workshop were more popular.</p> <p>The Vale Homework Club has been very active in Rhoose and has extended its provision to St Athan / Llantwit Major (with the help of Stronger Communities Grant funding) to provide support to young people and their parents.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Health and Safety						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Health & Safety policy focuses on significant risk and sensible risk assessment (RA). The Policy has been produced based on the HSE HSG65 document. Following a successful trial in 2012 which saw a number of schools piloting a description based Risk Assessment it was rolled out to all schools and across all Council departments including the Healthy Living team and the Parks & Grounds Maintenance section.</p> <p>This risk assessment method allows children to be exposed to risk in a controlled manner and to identify the benefits of doing so.</p>	The review of this policy is overdue.	<p><i>There is an understanding of the value to children being able to experience risk and challenge whilst playing.</i></p> <p>I6: The Council's Health and Safety policies continues to support deliverers to safely provide 'risky' play.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team to collaborate with other internal teams and external organisations to promote the importance of access to 'risky' play.</p>
	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)	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Description based risk assessments addressing significant risk on non-lesson based activities. Lesson plans to be used on lesson based activities. Risk-benefit approach is supported through training.</p> <p>There have been no specific challenges to overcome. This is mainly due to the council's proactive and sensible risk management approach to managing risk. Training is readily available and often tailored to the needs of the services.</p>	No immediate short falls. Future consideration for specific training and guidance to link in with education.	<p>The Healthy Living Team to liaise with the Health & Safety team to ensure the policies, procedures and training delivered</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	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 local authority does not offer any insurance provision to third sector or Community Councils and there is currently no proposal to do so.		still meet the requirements.

General action to be included in action plan:

A stronger 'voice for play' is realised and is positively impacting on improving and increasing children's access to quality play opportunities in the Vale.

Three PSA Steering Groups to be held annually to help shape future priority actions and identify themes for future PSA workshops.

Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

- Policy MG28 – Open Space Allocations and MD3 – Provision of Open Space included within the adopted Vale of Glamorgan local development Plan 2011-2026 (LDP) which set the basis and standards for new open space provision within new development proposals. Numerous LDP allocations have progressed to an advanced stage and development sites have been completed. The sites have included innovative play facilities, and these have been a result of cross-departmental liaison (e.g. highways, parks, landscape, and public art).
- The play and sports staff within the Healthy Living Team have worked in partnership with the Council's Health & Safety department to ensure a proactive and sensible risk management approach to managing risk in play and sports activities is taken. This is supported by the Council's Health & Safety policies supporting areas such as risk in play. Bespoke training has been delivered by the Health & Safety team to the relevant sports and play staff to facilitate this approach further.

- The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) is working in collaboration with Romilly Primary School to provide a non-threatening environment for children to go to when they are experiencing anxiety. A play zone is being established where the children can undertake a variety of play opportunities. This not only increases their access to play but also helps them release their anxiety and self-regulate. As part of this project the Healthy Living Officer is mentoring the teachers and LSA's around play so they can sustain the sessions in the future.
- The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) is working with Cadoxton Primary School to deliver a 6 week pilot project - Woody Wanderers. This is an outdoor learning through play programme attended by children from the school, some of whom have been identified to attend due to family circumstances, wellbeing issues and health issues. A range of opportunities are delivered to raise self-esteem, group co-operation, engagement and generally increase their exposure to Vitamin N! Vitamin Nature, increasing their exposure to nature, the outdoors and the sunshine.
- The Families First Holiday Club and Teenscheme programme are fantastic examples of collaborative working which impacts across policy agendas. The Families First Holiday Club provides full day play provision for disabled children during school holidays whilst Teenscheme provides full day provision for disabled young people up to the age of 18. The provision is funded through Families First as part of the Disability Strand element. The full day provision during school holidays not only provides disabled children and young people with access to fun, accessible play opportunities, it also assists with providing respite for the families. The programmes also supports the work of the Child Health & Disability Team within Social Services by providing a support mechanism for families during school holidays. This can often be a time when additional pressure is placed on the families of disabled children who are linked to the Child Health & Disability Team, so the team are often looking for appropriate opportunities to support families during this time, potentially avoiding crisis situations. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) also works with the Family Around the Child Team (FACT) to support children from families who are experiencing a difficult time due to a number of reasons including trauma, bereavement, family illness and attachment issues. Children are able to attend the playscheme provision giving them access to play opportunities but also giving them time away from the family issues to play with other children. There is good partnership working between the Families First Holiday Club and the Teenscheme to ensure a transition between the services as the children grow older. The Index which is managed by the Family Information Service is an important mechanism to promote the two programmes.
- The Families First Holiday Club is delivered at Ysgol Y Deri where a number of disabled children have to attend to receive their physiotherapy. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) is therefore liaising with the families so they can arrange for their children to access their physiotherapy on the days the children attend the venue for playscheme, to assist difficulties some families experience with transporting their children.
- There has been positive cross departmental working between Council departments including the Parks section of Neighbourhood Services, Creative Rural Communities, the Healthy Living Team and the Planning Department to capitalise on the use of Section 106 funding for the provision of fixed play equipment, recreational facilities, play sessions and play events.
- There are positive partnerships developed between the Healthy Living Team and some Town & Community Councils including Dinas Powys Community Council and Wick Community Council where resources and expertise have been pooled to enable the delivery of playschemes, Play Ranger sessions and play events in local communities.

- The inclusion of questions relating to play in the Vale Pupils Viewpoint survey on wellbeing highlights the growing recognition on the importance of play for children and young people and the need to ensure children and young people are consulted.
- The development of Welsh language play provision through a partnership approach between the various departments in the Vale Council and Mentor Bro Morgannwg.

Have there been challenges? How can these be overcome?

From a planning perspective there have been limited challenges. The inclusion of policies protecting and promoting open space within the adopted LDP has been achieved as an integral part of the LDP process. The inclusion of the policies reflects Welsh Government guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9) November 2017. The open space standards have not been achieved on a limited number of sites as part of the planning application, due to viability and abnormal site constraints. As part of the new PPW 10, viability assessments are required up front in the allocation process for the future LDP, and therefore viability issues at the planning application stage should be prevented, and the standards should be achieved.

A Health Impact Assessment of the duration and timing of school lunch-breaks in Cardiff and Vale maintained schools was undertaken in September 2016 by Public Health Wales, who published an accompanying report. This report, together with local knowledge, highlighted that the times allocated to lunchbreaks in Vale schools has been decreasing. The report included peer-reviewed literature highlighting the negative impacts of shortened school lunch-breaks on children and young people's participation in physical activity, levels of physical literacy, impacts on food choices, reduction in fruit and vegetable consumption and time available for participation in play opportunities. An example in the report states that one school with a short lunch-time offers no lunch-time activities but has a comprehensive after-school programme of activities instead. Although this may cover organised activity (of which not all children will participate) the shorter break times prevent active play and informal activity which is vital to all children's development, both socially and physically. This also prevents those who are not able to stay afterschool from participating. As health is a key driver for children's ability to learn, as articulated through the whole school approach to health and wellbeing, it seems that providing a lunch-break long enough to have both time to eat and to participate in some kind of recreational / play activity can only enhance children and young people's health. Within the report a suggestion was made in relation to introducing lunch-break policies in schools whereby a minimum school lunch-break of 45 minutes is available to allow adequate time for pupils to eat and participate in structured or unstructured recreational activity to increase physical activity and play levels and reduce sedentary time. The report indicated that some schools had provided feedback that lunch breaks were shortened to assist with poor behaviour during breaktime. The report recommendations included encouraging schools to provide adequate facilities, equipment and supervision during the lunch-time to promote positive behaviour. The section relating to play in schools highlights that there are positive examples of how some schools have improved play opportunities during breaktime. However there are still examples where this is not the case. This is an area that schools are currently impacting on a school by school basis. There would need to be a strategic policy implemented to positively impact on this area across the Vale schools.

Section 8: Conclusion

This section should identify the key priorities for the Local Authorities in accordance with the regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

The completion of this Play Sufficiency Assessment has highlighted that the Vale of Glamorgan are providing sufficient play opportunities given the limited resources available, although there is a demand to provide more. There has been progress made in a number of criteria areas since the previous PSA in 2016, which is positively impacting on the availability of quality play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. However it is also evident that there has been a decrease in some criteria areas. This assessment has focussed on the positive aspects and improvements in play availability within the Vale. However it is clear that there is a desire amongst those impacting on the development and delivery of play opportunities to further increase the amount and range of opportunities available.

Analysis of the RAG status of the 99 criteria identified in the assessment has illustrated that there has been increases in 14 of the criteria. 75 of the criteria were assessed as remaining static. 24 of these static statuses were for criteria that were already green in status, thus demonstrating good achievement against a large number of criteria. The status of 6 of the criteria has decreased. In total 28 of the criteria were assessed as green, 63 as amber and 8 as red. The breakdown of these are illustrated below.

<i>Matter</i>	<i>Increased</i>	<i>Stayed the Same</i>	<i>Decreased</i>	<i>New Criteria</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Amber</i>	<i>Red</i>
<i>A – Population</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
<i>B – Diverse Needs</i>	0	10	0	0	2	6	2
<i>C – Space Available for Children to Play (planning, parks, open spaces)</i>	1	11	4	1	5	10	2
<i>D – Supervised Provision</i>	2	11	0	0	5	7	1
<i>E – Charges for Play Provision</i>	0	7	0	0	2	4	1
<i>F – Access to Space / Provision Information, public Events</i>	1	17	2	0	9	11	0
<i>G – Securing & Developing the Play Workforce</i>	6	5	0	0	0	11	0
<i>H – Community Engagement & Participation</i>	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
<i>I – Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas</i>	4	11	0	3	5	11	2
	14	75	6	4	28	63	8

Further analysis of these statistics highlight that the matter area which saw the highest positive change is within Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce. These progressions have been assisted by securing funding from outside of the core play budget and by national changes around the training available. Courses such as the L2App and MAHPS have been introduced as a result of partnership working between Play Wales, Agored Cymru and other partners. These courses have made playwork training more accessible and attractive to the casual playwork staff who work in the Vale of Glamorgan and has also enabled individuals with associated qualifications to add playwork to their portfolio of qualifications, thus expanding the number of people who can deliver play. Those criteria areas that have decreased were mainly due to lack of resources. The areas that have decreased include work around:

- Open space assessments
- Accessible Greenspace study
- Assessment of brownfield sites for reclamation for play
- Importance of playing fields for play when disposing of them
- An up to date website with clear information relating to parks and play areas (not all of the parks are listed, and there is no information regarding the accessibility of these spaces)

There has been a significant move forward in relation to partnership working with increased pooling of resources. There is improved communication across internal departments and with external partners, and an increased desire and understanding for the need to work more collaboratively. However there are still pockets of developments taking place in silos internally within the Council so there are still further opportunities for joined up working to maximise limited resources available.

There has been an increased awareness and interest amongst non-play professionals regarding the indirect impact they have on a child's ability to play. This, together with the interest generated from the recently held PSA Workshop has led to an interest in revisiting the organisation of a Play Sufficiency Steering Group, whilst continuing with the smaller task and finish groups which are organised when required.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council remains committed to providing play opportunities and this commitment is demonstrated in its inclusion in the corporate plan. The positive benefits of play is also recognised by the Public Service Board by their inclusion of play in their Wellbeing Plan. However there is still a need to identify a play champion on the Public Service Board to drive the play agenda forward on a more strategic level.

Whilst financial resources are limited, the local authority is meeting its duty of providing sufficient play opportunities. Where possible resources are being secured to continue to improve opportunities, and this has been particularly successful in relation to securing S106 funding and funding via Creative Rural Communities to improve parks, play areas and open spaces in local communities. These have been welcomed by the communities affected, however it has also caused negative comments to be received from those communities who have not benefited from this funding and who feel their areas are also in need of upgrading.

There is a willingness and desire to continue to improve play opportunities across the Vale, however the lack of financial resources allocated to play has been identified as a barrier. The identification of long term funding continues to be an issue for both internal and external partners which not only impacts on programme delivery but also on developing staffing infrastructure. This limits strategic planning and continues to prove time consuming.

Where opportunities have emerged to secure additional funding for play, such as the monies allocated from Welsh Government, this funding has been welcomed and appropriately used to positively impact on play. However as reported in the previous PSA, it is still the case that it has not always been possible to use the Welsh Government Play funding on the highest priority areas due to the limited timeframe in which this funding is available and has to be spent, and the fact that the funding cannot be used for capital costs. Ideally some of this funding would be used to support the costs of delivering projects such as playschemes, Play Ranger sessions, beach sessions, Family workshops and Family Fun Days across the year. These are areas of delivery that have been negatively impacted upon as a result of reductions in play budgets since the initial PSA was undertaken in 2013. With the amount of funding that has been available through the Welsh Government All Wales Play Opportunities funding, it would be possible to run a comprehensive annual play programme. However as this funding is not confirmed until the last quarter of the financial year it is not possible to commit to such projects, especially as this funding cannot be carried over into the new financial year. As discussed in the next section, changes to the Children and Communities Funding stream may assist with this.

The Play – Have Your Say online survey provided useful feedback from the children and young people regarding their experience of and access to play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. The survey highlighted that:

- 64% would rate their opportunities for playing as great or good.
- 71% go out to play or hang out at least a few times a week, but 7% never play outside.
- 32% would like more time to play or hang out with friends.
- 21.5% think that some or most adults are grumpy and do not like children playing out.

- 93% always or usually feel safe when playing or hanging out
- 14% feel that the places they play in are not good and they cannot do all they would like to.
- Children and young people play in more than 30 different types of places in the Vale, which is dependent on what is local to them, where they can safely travel and where they feel safe to play.
- The fantastic natural environment in the Vale is a positive contributor to children and families accessing local play opportunities.
- Whilst many children feel they have access to good play opportunities, this is very much dependent on where they live, whether they are allowed to play in the places they want to and what type of play they like.
- Things that are not good about playing in the Vale include worn fixed play equipment, lack of play areas suitable for older children, traffic, accessing local play opportunities and spaces in identified areas, having places to play when it is raining, feeling safe playing out in the evenings and feedback that some adults do not want children to play in the places they do.

In the previous PSA one of the priorities identified was to focus on developing 'playful communities' whereby there is an understanding of the need to widen the areas where people perceive children can play and what 'play' really means. The definition of play to some people can be very fixed so there is a need to broaden these perceptions and highlight the various play experiences available within the Vale that can be undertaken for low or no cost. Since the previous PSA there has been progress with moving away from the assumption that there is a need for fixed play equipment to be located near every child in order for them to experience quality play. The play survey highlighted that there is an appreciation of the good natural environment in the Vale such as open spaces, woodlands and beaches in enabling children to experience play in its widest form. The promotion of the availability of no cost / low cost play within the Vale will continue to be a priority moving forward.

As with the previous assessment, this assessment highlighted that there is a growing passion and understanding of the benefits of play amongst a number of internal and external partners, who are committed to the further development of play opportunities for children and young people. It is essential to ensure that we use these individuals as advocates for play when they are at their various networks and meetings.

The actions identified to assist with progressing against the key priorities are highlighted in the following action plan below.

Section 9: Way forward

This section should briefly introduce the Action Plan which sets out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children to play within the Local Authority area, including what mechanism and criteria were used to agree and prioritise actions. It should also describe the actions the Local Authority will take with regards to change in infrastructure, partnership working or mechanisms to ensure that it is well placed to deliver on the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities

As was the case with both the 2013 and 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessments, due to financial constraints there will be limited budgets available for the Council to allocate to play moving forward. However the positive collaborative working between partners will continue and it is hoped that this will continue to ensure that resources are identified to drive forward the actions identified in the action plan. Many of these are low cost actions or actions that can be delivered with no additional cost utilising existing resources.

There are a number of actions identified in the action plan which have been highlighted as a result of the assessment process and the identification of shortfalls. The results from the play survey undertaken with children, in addition to the discussions undertaken at the PSA Workshop also highlighted barriers to participation and potential actions. All internal departments and external partners involved in assisting with the completion of the PSA were provided with the opportunity to suggest appropriate actions for inclusion. However it is noted that whilst many of these contributed towards the evidence base for the assessment, they did not put forward actions for inclusion in the action plan. The main consideration when identifying actions for inclusion was the identification of priorities that were achievable within the given timeframe, funding and resources available. Some of the actions identified in the plan will take longer than a year to implement / make an impact. However it is important to include them in the action plan and they will be carried over into future actions plans where relevant. As with previous PSA action plans, it is intended that this document will be a working document, which will be reviewed and amended where appropriate.

The Welsh Government has combined their relevant funding streams to form the Children and Communities Grant. This has brought positive opportunities in relation to play. The Out of School Childcare Grant has now been amended to encompass play as well as childcare. This provides the opportunity to build some capacity within the play workforce in the local authority and to enable more staffed play provision to take place. If the funding bid is successful, part of the funding will be used to employ a Play Development Worker to join the Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) in developing play opportunities in the Vale. This will release the Senior Health Living Officer (Play) from undertaking some of the delivery elements that she currently undertakes thus allowing her to focus more on project development. The additional funding will not only enable the building of capacity within the play section, it will also enable more staffed play provision to be delivered via projects such as playschemes, Play Ranger sessions and Play events.

Section 10: The Vale of Glamorgan Play Action Plan for the period of 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2021 (2 year plan)

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

Action Ref	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources
Matter A: Population				
No actions				
Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs				
B1	<p>Increasing the amount of and access to play opportunities in rural areas.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team to work in partnership with Community Councils, residents and other appropriate organisations in rural areas to undertake further consultation regarding the play needs and barriers to play in identified villages.</p>	<p>Pilot project to be undertaken in 2 villages to include completion of consultation and identification of actions to move forward.</p>	<p>Matter A: increasing populations in rural areas due to new housing developments</p> <p>Matter D: partners are supported to offer rich play environments</p> <p>Matter F: the ability to safely access local play spaces</p> <p>Matter H: community engagement and events</p> <p>Matter I: collaborative working</p>	<p><i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i></p> <p>Existing Officer time</p> <p>New funding streams once priorities are identified</p>
B2	<p>Increasing access to play opportunities for disabled children and young people.</p> <p>The Index to continue to be promoted to families and professionals working with families, as a tool to disseminate</p>	<p>Quarterly Index newsletter is produced promoting Playschemes, Teenschemes and other play opportunities.</p>	<p>Matter D: the Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment</p> <p>Matter F: the Local Authority provides information on access</p>	<p><i>Lead: Index Officer</i></p> <p>Existing Officer time</p> <p>Existing funding through Families First</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	<p>information and obtain feedback regarding play opportunities for disabled children and young people.</p> <p>New mechanisms are introduced to increase access to information.</p>	<p>Quarterly Family Sessions are delivered across the Vale to provide a mechanism for distribution of information to families of disabled children, alongside providing play opportunities for the children to access.</p>	<p>to play opportunities and contact for support if required</p>	<p>Disability Strand element</p>
B3	<p>Increasing opportunities for children to access play through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The Local Authority to continue the partnership with Menter Bro Morgannwg to expand the opportunities available for Welsh medium play provision.</p>	<p>The Partnership Agreement to be extended for a further period of time with increased opportunities developed.</p>	<p>Matter D: the Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments.</p>	<p><i>Lead: Equalities Section / Menter Bro Morgannwg</i></p> <p>Existing & additional resources - Equalities budget</p>
Matter C: Space Available for Children to Play				
C1	<p>Increase awareness regarding the accessible fixed play equipment in local parks.</p> <p>Update information on the Council website and the internal record database of all designated play spaces to highlight those play spaces which have inclusive equipment accessible to disabled children and those with limited mobility.</p>	<p>Up to date information is available online to increase access to fixed play equipment for disabled children.</p> <p>Information is shared directly to the relevant families via the Index.</p>	<p>Matter B: providing for the play needs of disabled children.</p> <p>Matter D: the Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment</p> <p>Matter F: the Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and information to support parents with helping their children access play activities</p>	<p><i>Lead: Parks & Open Spaces Officer</i></p> <p>Existing resources – Officer time</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

C2	Undertake additional qualitative surveys that complement the existing Open Space assessment and also to reflect open space that has been lost and delivered via planning applications since 2013.	Undertake data update to include all new areas of open space provided as a part of new development schemes since November 2013.	Matter F: Access to space / provision	<i>Lead: Planning Department</i> Additional resources required (this will only take place if additional resources are identified)
C3	Undertake a full access audit for all open spaces detailed within the updated Open Space Assessment when completed. Engage with Property section of Council in order to investigate the possibility of introducing children's play as an option for the re-use of Brownfield sites within land disposal process.	Access audit to be in line with current FIT accessibility standards and other guidelines, including DDA. Seek to secure resources to enable an assessment of brownfield land within the council's ownership and the opportunities presented for children's play.	Matter F: Access to space / provision	<i>Lead: Planning Department</i> Existing resources – officer time
C4	The Council's Neighbourhood Services Team / S106 Officer and Landscape Officer communicate with Town & Community Councils about fixed play needs to aid the process if funding is identified for a specific area through e.g. S106 funding.	There are improved fixed play areas in identified areas. Town & Community Councils are involved in the consultation process when planning new or upgraded fixed play spaces.	Matter B: Providing for diverse need including those living in rural areas and disabled children and young people. Matter F: Access to space / provision.	<i>Lead: Parks & Open Spaces Officer</i> Existing resource – Council budget
C5	The implementation of an all-encompassing Asset Management system for neighbourhood Services to ensure improved ability / efficiency in undertaking remaining and continuing access audits.	There is improved efficiency and ability to undertake access audits.	Matter F: access to space / provision	<i>Lead: Parks & Open Spaces Officer</i> Existing resource – Council budget

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

C6	<p>Increase awareness regarding the spaces where children play and make it safer for children to play.</p> <p>Investigate the potential to use temporary 'Children Playing' signage in areas where traffic has been identified as an issue.</p>	A pilot is undertaken in an identified area to establish impact.	Matter F: access to space / provision	<p><i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i></p> <p>Officer time</p> <p>New resources for signage</p>
Matter D: Supervised Provision				
D1	<p>Participation in play is recognised as an important contributor to the health and wellbeing of children and young people by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The new Leisure Strategy to be adopted with play incorporated as a key area of contribution.</p>	The Leisure Strategy is adopted by the Local Authority and includes actions relating to play.	<p>Matter F: access to space / provision</p> <p>Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas</p> <p>Creating positive attitudes towards play and its benefits</p>	<p><i>Lead: Operational Manager, Healthy Living & Performance Team</i></p> <p>Officer time</p> <p>Existing resources</p>
D2	Increase availability of open access play opportunities during school holidays through the delivery of inclusive playschemes, Play Ranger sessions and Family Fun Days.	<p>Provision is available as a result of partnership working with Town & Community Councils and other partners.</p> <p>Amount of activities available will be dependent on funding identified.</p> <p>Aim for a minimum of three Family Fun Days, two inclusive playschemes and three Play Ranger projects.</p>	<p>Matter B: providing for the play needs of disabled children, those living in rural areas and those facing other barriers to participation.</p> <p>Matter C: utilising local open spaces and parks to access play.</p> <p>Matter H: community engagement and events</p>	<p><i>Lead: Healthy Living Officer (Play) / Play Development Worker</i></p> <p>Officer time – existing resources</p> <p>Children and Communities Grant</p> <p>Town & Community Councils</p> <p>Vale Council budget</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

D3	The Woody Wanderers project is promoted to local schools to increase the number of children experiencing fun, outdoor play activities linked to Forest Schools.	Woody Wanderers is taking place in two primary schools. The teaching staff have increased knowledge and confidence to facilitate outdoor play activities.	Matter C: utilising local open spaces and parks to access play. Matter I: the local authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	<i>Lead: Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play)</i> Existing resources – Officer time and outdoor play equipment
Matter E: Charges for Play Provision				
E1	Raise awareness of the play opportunities that can be undertaken free of charge within an identified area / community using the natural outdoor environment, and the fixed play and recreational equipment available in the parks and open spaces across the Vale.	Undertake a pilot community mapping exercise in a local area, identifying the different places and spaces in that area where children can play and provide examples of activities that could be undertaken. Produce a promotional leaflet to outline these spaces and potential play activities. Use this leaflet as a template for future leaflets in other areas.	Matter C: making use of space for play. Matter F: Access to space / provision.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> Existing resources – Officer time
Matter F: Access to Space / Provision				
F1	Children are supported to safely travel to spaces to play and use fun, active methods to do so. The Active Travel Task & Finish group to be made aware of the Play Sufficiency	There is increased understanding of the link between Active Travel and play. Appropriate achievable actions are identified by the group to progress this priority.	Matter C: making use of space for play. Matter D: access to supervised provision. Matter I: the Local Transport Plan recognises the	<i>Lead: Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team</i> Officer time Existing resources

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	Assessment requirements relating to this area to drive the agenda forward.		importance of local streets, roads, walking and cycling routes in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities.	Further costs to be identified once actions are identified.
F2	Identify appropriate mechanisms to promote the road closure process so that communities are aware they can apply for localised road closures to facilitate community and street based play events / opportunities.	The process is promoted via various mechanisms to the public along with the publications relating to Street Play produced by Play Wales.	Matter C: making use of space for play. Matter D: partners are supported to offer rich play environments. Matter F: Access to space / provision.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> Officer time - existing resources
F3	There is a greater understanding of the impact that traffic and safe routes to play spaces has on children's ability to access quality local play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.	A PSA Workshop is held relating to this area and an overview is produced highlighting potential ways to move forward with this area of work.	Matter C: making use of space for play. Matter I: the Local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads, walking and cycling routes in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> Existing resources – Officer time Funding to be identified dependent on actions agreed
F4	Increase awareness regarding the range of outdoor play spaces and play opportunities available within the Vale (to also encompass supervised play opportunities delivered by partners including the Healthy Living team, Country Park Rangers and Flying Start).	A user friendly information leaflet is available for residents to promote the outdoor play opportunities available in the Vale.	Matter C: making use of space for play. Matter H: community engagement and events.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> Existing resources – Officer time Funding for leaflet printing to be identified

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Matter G: Securing & Developing the Workforce				
G1	Develop the Play infrastructure within the Local Authority, increasing capacity within the Healthy Living Team to enable more strategic development, in addition to more delivery of opportunities.	A Play Development Worker is appointed. The Senior Healthy Living Officer (Play) has more time available to undertake development opportunities.	This impacts across all Matters.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> New resources – Children & Communities Grant
G2	The implementation of the Community Play Ambassadors project to support young people to become 'play ambassadors' through training, qualifications and volunteering opportunities with the aim of facilitating neighbourhood play based interventions to get children active through playing. This will be a cross-county partnership led by Play Wales in collaboration with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council, Agored Cymru, and the Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team. This will link to positive attitudes to play.	50 play ambassadors will obtain playwork training and receive mentoring to be able to deliver quality play opportunities. Outdoor community based play will be facilitated in ten communities to 500 children. These figures are across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.	Matter B: providing for the play needs of children living in rural areas. Matter D: access to supervised provision.	<i>Lead: Play Wales</i> Existing resources – Officer time New resources – this project is dependent on a successful Healthy & Active Funding bid.
G3	The Vale of Glamorgan Council to work in partnership with Agored Cymru to deliver playwork training (L2App and MAHPS) to staff and volunteers working in play and childcare settings across the Vale.	One Managing a Holiday Playscheme (MAHPS) course and one L2App course delivered within the year	Matter D: access to supervised provision.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i> Existing & New resources – Officer time & EYDCP training budget, Welsh Government Play funding if available

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

Matter H: Community Engagement & Participation				
H1	<p>Undertake a collaborative planned approach to a campaign of promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - positive attitudes to play - the benefits of play - range of play opportunities available 	<p>A Communications Plan is produced by a Task & Finish Group identifying a variety of no / low cost promotional opportunities to ensure a wide reach of the campaign.</p>	<p>Matter B: providing for diverse needs</p> <p>Matter D: the Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment</p> <p>Matter F: Access to space / provision</p>	<p><i>Lead: Healthy Living Team</i></p> <p>Existing resources – Officer time</p>
H2	<p>Demonstrate that the local authority is taking into account the information gained from consultations to improve play opportunities available in the Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <p>Increase awareness regarding the play opportunities available across the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>	<p>Produce a ‘You Said - We Did’ report at end of year to highlight to the public and partners how the plan is working towards overcoming some of the barriers to play raised during consultation</p>	<p>This will impact across all matters.</p>	<p><i>Lead: Principal Healthy Living Officer</i></p> <p>Existing resources – Officer time</p>
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas				
I1	<p>There is a play champion advocating the importance of play and the impact of play on the health and well-being objectives identified in the Well-Being Plan.</p>	<p>A named person on the Public Service Board is identified who will champion play and ensure that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contributes to and are incorporated within the Wellbeing plan.</p>	<p>This links across all Matter area.</p>	<p><i>Lead: Operational Manager, Healthy Living & Performance Team</i></p> <p>Officer time – existing resources</p>
I2	<p>Encourage more collaboration in relation to the development and promotion of play opportunities, and a more co-ordinated approach to tackling priority areas to</p>	<p>Three Steering Groups to be held annually.</p>	<p>This will impact across all Matter areas.</p>	<p><i>Lead: Principal Healthy Living Officer</i></p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	assist with driving the agenda forward - by re-introducing the Play Sufficiency Steering Group.	The Play Steering Group to help shape future priority actions and identify themes for future PSA workshops. A stronger 'voice for play' is realised and is positively impacting on improving and increasing children's access to quality play opportunities in the Vale.		Officer time - existing resources
13	There is an increased understanding of the importance of protecting time for play in schools.	A Task & Finish Group will develop a co-ordinated approach encompassing areas such as Play Makers training and Play Wales resources to increase the variety of play activities available to primary age children during their school breaks.	Matter B: providing for diverse needs Matter C: making use of space for play.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living team</i> Officer time - existing resources
14	There is access to recreational open space and play spaces in new development areas. The planning department to ensure that the policies of the LDP are appropriately implemented on all new developments and provide recreational open space in accordance with the stated adopted standards.	All policies are implemented in accordance with adopted standards.	Matter C: making use of space for play	<i>Lead: Planning Section</i> Officer time – existing resources S106 funding
15	There is increased acknowledgment of the positive contribution that access to play can provide in assisting children who are experiencing adverse childhood	The Healthy Living Officer (Play) assists Gladstone & Romilly Primary Schools with developing their programme of play to	Matter B: providing for diverse needs.	<i>Lead: Healthy Living Officer (Play)</i>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	<p>experiences (ACES) and health and wellbeing issues.</p>	<p>support children who are experiencing health and wellbeing issues.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Officer (Play) supports the Youth Mentors involved in the Emojis project to use play as a mechanism to support children with wellbeing issues.</p> <p>ACEs training is offered to staff and volunteers working with children and young people in play settings.</p>		<p>Existing resources – Officer time</p> <p>ACE’s training – free via Public Health Wales</p>
16	<p>There is an understanding of the value to children being able to experience risk and challenge whilst playing.</p> <p>The Council’s Health and Safety policies continues to support deliverers to safely provide ‘risky’ play.</p>	<p>A review of the Health & Safety policy relating to this area is reviewed to ensure it is still fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team to collaborate with other internal teams and external organisations to promote the importance of access to ‘risky’ play.</p> <p>The Healthy Living Team to liaise with the Health & Safety team to ensure the policies, procedures and training delivered still meet the requirements.</p>	<p>Matter D: delivery of appropriate supervised play provision and access to a range of play types.</p>	<p><i>Lead: Health & Safety Team/ Healthy Living Team</i></p> <p>Officer time - existing resources</p>