

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

PWNC | SUBJECT: Transformation of the Early Years in RCT

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:



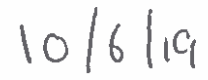
To seek approval to undertake a focused consultation with families and local childcare providers on the proposed Transformation of the Early Years in RCT.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services as described below.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

A focussed consultation on the Council Website and a focused consultation with current commissioned childcare providers on the proposed changes to childcare is undertaken.

A report on the outcome of the consultation exercise with recommendations concerning the proposed changes is presented to Cabinet for consideration.

		
Llofnod y Prif Swyddog Chief Officer Signature	Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	Dyddiad Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION



**LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE**

10/06/2019

DYDDIAD | DATE

**LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE**

DYDDIAD | DATE

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYD A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YDY | YES NAC YDY | NO

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

.....

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | Presiding Member)

.....
(Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Councils Website:- 10-06-19

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be

14-06-19

DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswilt Contact Name:	Mandy Perry
Swydd Designation:	Community Wellbeing and Resilience Early Intervention and Prevention Commissioning Manager
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	01443 425511

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION

5TH JUNE 2019

**PROPOSALS TO UNDERTAKE A CONSULTATION ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THE EARLY YEARS SYSTEM IN RCT**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA LEYSHON, CABINET
MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Author: Mandy Perry, Community Wellbeing and Resilience Early Intervention and
Prevention Commissioning Manager**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to propose that a focused consultation be undertaken with families and local childcare providers on the transformation of the Early Years in RCT.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 A focussed consultation on the Council Website and a focused consultation with current commissioned childcare providers on the proposed changes to childcare is undertaken.
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1, a report on the outcome of the consultation exercise with recommendations concerning the proposed changes is presented to Cabinet for consideration.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council must continuously review and challenge its service delivery to ensure it is cost effective, remains fit for purpose and is meeting the Council's commitment to deliver the best possible services for our communities. Where necessary, it may be necessary to modernise and transform those services to meet current requirements.
- 3.2 To deliver a new Early Years System for RCT that is truly responsive to the needs of children and families it is proposed that the Council moves away from the delivery of services that are determined by geographical postcodes to a model that promotes universal access to services for all families in RCT.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As a Funding Flexibility Pathfinder from April 2018, Cwm Taf was given greater flexibility on the use of ten identified grants to meet Welsh Government's strategic outcomes. Based on the outcomes of this Pathfinder work, two new grants have been issued to Local Authorities from April 2019, and comprise the following programmes:

Children and Community Grant (CCG)

- Flying Start
- Families First
- Communities First Legacy Fund
- St David's Day Fund
- Childcare and Play
- Promoting positive Engagement (for young people at risk of offending)
- Communities for Work Plus

Housing Support Grant (HSG)

- Supporting People
- Homelessness Prevention
- Rent Smart Wales Enforcement

- 4.2 The flexible use of grant funding offers the means to strengthen our position through the creation of a single approach across all programmes that sees:

- The removal of the existing eligibility criteria of individual programmes to be replaced by a single mechanism to identify need
- The development of a single point of access for individuals and families
- The use of a single assessment process and tool that focuses on identifying support required by the individual/family to build their resilience, and
- The use of a single outcomes framework to measure impact, and to make the approach more meaningful

- 4.3 Whilst the Children and Communities Grant has been established with full flexibility, the Council is still required to meet the Flying Start grant terms and conditions. This means ensuring the delivery of the four key strands of the programme: Parenting Support; Early Language and Communication Support; enhanced Health Visiting Services; and Childcare.

- 4.4 Following the significant amount of work undertaken by RCT to ensure a single integrated approach to early intervention and prevention, in February 2019 Welsh Government approved a joint 2019/20 Families First/Flying Start Delivery Plan as part of the new Children and Communities Grant.

- 4.5 The joint delivery plan seeks to provide a new Early Years system which offers a programme of needs-based support to children and families. RCT is proposing to deliver targeted, enhanced and specialist support to those who need it most,

ensuring a level of continuity of services across the Borough regardless of geographical postcode. It will be supported by robust service planning utilising vulnerability profiling, to ensure the right provision is available at the right time, in the right place.

- 4.6 To deliver a new Early Years System that is truly responsive to the needs of children and families it is necessary that the Council moves away from the delivery of services that are determined by Flying Start geographical postcodes to a model that promotes universal access to services for all families in RCT based on need. To do this, it is necessary to use the full flexibility of both the Children and Communities Grant and the Housing Support Grant to deliver the vision of providing the right support to the right people at the right time.
- 4.7 Within a needs based approach the key priorities for the delivery of the four strands of the Flying Start programme are:
- **Parenting** – provide open access to informal parenting support and formal parenting programmes for parents with children up to the age of 18 years and specialist support for parents with children with additional needs
 - **Early language and Communication** – delivered as a targeted early intervention for children aged 21 months identified as experiencing language delay and also for children up to the age of 7 years who are not making expected progress
 - **Health Visiting** – access to enhanced Health Visiting intervention is available across the whole of RCT for children aged 0-5 years and their families
 - **Childcare** – funded childcare for 2-3 year olds is provided as part of a co-ordinated package of support for families based on assessed need

Delivery of all four programme strands within a needs based approach will be facilitated by universal access to a single 'front door' via the Resilient Families Service.

- 4.8 This needs based approach has been developed alongside WG and agreed by them in principle and as a pilot through the sign off of the joint Families First / Flying Start Delivery Plan for 2019-20.
- 4.9 It will be necessary to employ a phased approach to support the transition from the geographical entitlement model of providing funded childcare, to a model where funded childcare is available for those children and families most in need. For purposes of fairness and minimising the impact on families of the change to the model, it is proposed that the Council honours any existing offer of childcare made to families in Flying Start areas under the current Flying Start model up until a specified date.
- 4.10 In order to support the financial implications of the Council's commitment to implementing a phased approach, whilst at the same time adopting a needs based approach, it is proposed that the number of weeks per year funded childcare places

are offered will be reduced from 42 weeks to 39 weeks to align with the rest of Wales. Currently RCT is the only Local Authority that provides above the stipulated 39 weeks of childcare per year stated in the Welsh Government Flying Start Guidance. The model will be cost neutral since the financial savings from the reduction in weeks would amount to £175k per year, offering a contribution of £525k to cover the three year transition period towards the provision of funded childcare for an additional 165 children where there is an identified need.

- 4.11 Although consultation has already taken place with parents and families prior to the implementation of a universal parenting offer, further consultation is now proposed on the wider childcare changes and the needs based approach.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Single Equality Duty) requires public authorities to demonstrate in decision making that they have paid 'due regard' to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- 5.2 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child also requires the Council to demonstrate that decision making has paid due regard to the rights of children and young people.

- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form has been prepared in respect of the transformation of the Early Years System in RCT. The screening has identified that due to the phased approach proposed and the timing of the proposed change in the number of weeks childcare is offered, the changes to the delivery model have limited impact on children and families therefore a full Equality Impact Assessment would not be required at this time. The screening form can be accessed by contacting the author of the report or the Cabinet Business Officer.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with parents and families was undertaken prior to the implementation of a universal parenting offer across RCT in April 2018. At this time parents reported a desire to see more informal support tailored to their needs that they could access in their local communities. They also requested support for specific elements of parenting such as managing behaviour and supporting the educational needs of their children. Further consultation is ongoing on an informal basis with those families who have received parenting support as part of the Resilient Families Service.
- 6.2 It is now proposed that the Council undertakes a focussed consultation over a three week period with families and existing commissioned childcare providers in respect

of the changes to a needs based childcare model to inform a subsequent Cabinet report with recommendations.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The cost of all transformation activity will be met from existing grant funding as part of the new Children and Communities Grant. The creation of the Children and Communities Grant is providing far more flexibility than the Council has previously had to resource current provision and future initiatives to meet identified gaps.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from these proposals, however consultation with Welsh Government is ongoing via both the Cwm Taf Early Years Co-construction Board and the Funding Flexibilities Pathfinder Programme to ensure transformation proposals do not contravene grant funding conditions.

- 8.2 The following legislation has been considered in relation to the development of these proposals:

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- Putting an individual and their needs at the centre of their care and giving them a voice in, and control over reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being
- Supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of this care and support
- Increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need
- Strong partnership working between all agencies and organisations

The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- A more equal Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 The implementation of the new Early Years System for RCT will contribute to the Council's corporate priority to 'promote independence and positive lives for everyone' in the following ways;

- Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life.

- 9.2 The Early Years System has been developed in full consideration of the sustainable development principles. The proposal will also support the Council to contribute to all of the seven well-being goals:-

- **A prosperous Wales:** children who receive support at the earliest opportunity are more prepared for adulthood and achieving prosperous futures.
- **A healthier Wales:** access to enhanced support that is not restricted by geographical boundaries supports all children who need it to meet their developmental milestones and develop social skills, enhancing their emotional wellbeing.
- **A more equal Wales:** by delivering services based on an assessment of need as opposed to being limited by geographically based eligibility criteria ensures that those children and families most in need of support have access to it irrespective of where they live.
- **A Wales of cohesive Communities:** access to services that are not restricted to particular communities promotes equality and harmony across communities and the means to share community resources in order to be responsive to need and build resilience.
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:** children who are given the freedom to progress through the early years in the language of their choice learn to be tolerant and accepting, preparing them for a multi-racial, globalised adult world.
- **A globally responsible Wales:** children who have access to effective early years opportunities are afforded experiences that prepare them to be globally responsible adults.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Council must continuously review and challenge its service delivery to ensure it is costs effective, remains fit for purpose and is meeting the Council's commitment to deliver the best possible services for our communities. The proposed consultation will inform service delivery to ensure the Council are delivering the right support to the right people at the right time.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

None.

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