

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD BRYD GAN O'R AELOD O'R CABINET
AR FATERION ADDYSG A GWASANAETHAU CYNHWYSIANT, Y
CYNGHORYDD J ROSSER**

RECORD OF URGENT DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES, COUNCILLOR J ROSSER.

Yn unol ag Adran 3A Ran 3 (paragraff 3) o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.
In accordance with Section 3A of Part 3 (paragraph 3) of the Council's Constitution.

PWNC | SUBJECT: Childcare and Summer Activity Programme 2020

PENDERFYNIAD | DECISION:

To provide details of the childcare support the Council will offer across seven hub settings during the school summer holiday – which will prioritise vulnerable children, and offer provision for children of NHS and social care workers strictly subject to availability.

AGREED:

1. To offer summer holiday childcare prioritising vulnerable children age 5-16 in mainstream settings and age 4-19 in special school settings, from Wednesday 22nd July to Friday, 21st August 2020; and
2. That the provision will be from Monday to Friday each week, from 9am to 3pm and will be held across seven school hub sites – Darran Park Primary (Ferndale), Hawthorn Primary, Penywaun Primary, Ynysboeth Primary, YGG Tonyrefail, Porth Community School and Ysgol Hen Felin.



Joy Rosser

07.07.20

**Llofnod yr Aelod o'r Cabinet /
Cabinet Member's Signature**

Priflythrennau /Print Name

**Dyddiad /
Date**

YMGYNGHORIAD | CONSULTATION

A Morgan

07-07-20

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

DYDDIAD | DATE

Gwynor Davies

07-07-20

LLOFNOD YR UWCH SWYDDOG YR YMGYNGHORWYD AG – G DAVIES
SENIOR OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE – G DAVIES

DYDDIAD | DATE

Alun Bardsley

07-07-20

LLOFNOD YMGYNGHORA'I'R PRIF WEITHREDWR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

Alun

07-07-20

CYFARWYDDWR Y GWASANAETHAU CYLLID A DIGIDOL
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

DYDDIAD | DATE

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

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN 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:

To begin the application process via www.rctcbc.gov.uk/publichealthrct, which will run from 12pm on Wednesday 8th July, closing at 11:59pm on Sunday, 12th July.

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - Ilofnod 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)

07-07-20

.....
(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.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY THE URGENT DECISION OF THE CABINET
MEMBER**

JULY 2020

CHILDCARE AND SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2020

**Authors: - Non Morgan, School Organisation & Governance Team Leader
Zoe Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Seek approval on the delivery of childcare and summer activity programmes in a range of educational settings during the school summer holiday closure period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Agree to the proposals for outlined in section 5.
- 2.3 Consider whether any additional information is required.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide a childcare and summer activity programme over the school closure period.

- 3.2. To ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people access support during the school summer holiday period.
- 3.3 To ensure that NHS and social care staff are able to access childcare and summer activity programmes where capacity and funding allows.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2020, schools across Wales closed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Immediate plans were put in place for our schools to be repurposed to deliver childcare for vulnerable learners and essential workers who were involved in delivering front line services.
- 4.2 Initially childcare was delivered across all school settings, before childcare hubs were established in a number of schools.
- 4.3 Since the 1st of June, 25 hubs (including 4 special schools, 2 pupil referral units) have been established across the County Borough, delivering emergency childcare for vulnerable learners and essential workers. Essential workers were defined in accordance with Welsh Government guidance and included employees in the following key service areas:
 - Health and social care;
 - Education and childcare;
 - Key public services;
 - Local and national government;
 - Food and other necessary goods;
 - Public safety and national security;
 - Transport; and
 - Utilities, communication and financial services.

Provision for essential workers was delivered by school staff from 8:00-18:00 (8:00-17:00 in recent weeks) 7 days a week, including holiday periods and bank holidays.

- 4.3 Vulnerable learners have been prioritised through a partnership approach involving Education and Children's Services. Following referral, emergency childcare placements were prioritised for vulnerable learners who had an allocated social workers and most required this support. This included cases identified from the following groups on the basis of risk and need:
 - Children on the child protection register;
 - Children in need of care and support;
 - Looked after children;
 - Young carers; and
 - Children with additional learning needs/disabilities.

Due to escalating concerns about the level of need in the County Borough, vulnerable children on the edge of care have been prioritised for placement.

All vulnerable learners accessed core school hours provision in childcare hubs 5 days a week, including the school holiday periods during the summer half-term break. Transport has been provided for all vulnerable learners to ensure family engagement.

- 4.4 From the 15th of June 2020, weekend provision ceased due to low demand. Following the opening of all schools on the 29th of June 2020, emergency childcare has been delivered in all schools. Childcare provision is in addition to the opportunities for children to check in, catch up and prepare for the summer and the autumn term 2020.
- 4.5 In addition to this offer, children aged between 0–4 years, access free childcare as part of the Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme.
- 4.6 The data suggests that there is a significant and growing demand for childcare provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf, which has clearly been accelerated due to school closures and the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 (please see the table below for pupil data collated on the 26th June 2020). It is anticipated that there will be continued demand for childcare over the summer months, but this is likely to be to a lesser degree due to families taking annual leave during this period.

Age Range	Vulnerable	Key Workers Childcare
0-4	36 in childcare/childminders 27 in school hubs	293 in childcare/childminders 150 in school hubs
4-11	312	1408
11-14	99	114
Total	474	1965

- 4.7 The continued provision of free emergency childcare is not mandated by Welsh Government and local authorities are encouraged to offer provision based on their local context and needs. There is no requirement on school staff to make continued provision in hub settings and feedback from Welsh Government suggests that the free emergency childcare is in the process of being scaled back. However, this will be subject to no further increases in transmission rates and any future peaks in Covid-19 cases.
- 4.8 Rhondda Cynon Taf has historically provided enrichment programmes during the school closure period. In the summer 2019, a School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) was delivered in six primary schools and one special school. The WLGA provided match grant funding of £5000 per school and £10,000 per special school. £40,000 of the match funding was met from the

Education Directorate's existing budget. A total of 290 applications were received, with 170 children attending one or more of the 12 sessions in the primary settings and 25 attending one or more sessions in the special school setting. This funding has ceased for this academic year.

- 4.9 In addition, Children's Services ordinarily commission a programme of summer play scheme opportunities via external play providers. This programme delivers up to 600 open access sessional places for children aged 5-14 years. Alongside the open access sessions, Children's Services also commission additional assisted access to play places for 120 vulnerable and disabled children during holiday periods under the Care2Play Scheme. The delivery of play schemes and Care2Play are subject to Care Inspectorate Wales regulations including a limit on the number of hours per session (less than 2 hours for unregistered settings and a maximum of 3 hours for registered settings). Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, open access play will not be delivered over the summer period in line with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidance. Transport is not provided for either of these schemes.

5. **PROPOSED PROVISION**

- 5.1 In order to address a potential demand for childcare provision over the summer, a range of programmes will be provided. Some settings have been selected based on their previous delivery of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) or where there is a community need for provision of this nature.
- 5.2 It is proposed that summer childcare is provided for vulnerable children throughout the summer period for three distinct age groups; namely, 0-4 year olds, 5-11 year olds and 11-16 years old in a range of different schools and registered childcare settings. In special school settings, the age range will be extend from 4 to 19 years. All of the current and proposed programmes will provide **830** childcare and activity placements. Where capacity allows, provision will be made for NHS and social care workers, including staff who are involved in delivering the childcare and summer activity programme.

	0-4 childcare Offer	Summer Activity Programme 5-11	Summer Activity Programme 11-16
Provision	Existing Provision Childcare Assistance Scheme	New proposed provision: Darran Park Primary Porth Community Hawthorn Primary/High YGG Tonyrefail Ynysboeth Primary Penywaun Primary Ysgol Hen Felin (4-19) Existing Provision Children's Services targeted support	New proposed provision: Darran Park Primary Porth Community Hawthorn Primary/High school sports facilities YGG Tonyrefail Ynysboeth Primary Penywaun Primary Ysgol Hen Felin (4-19) Existing Provision Children's Services targeted support
Location	Throughout RCT in childcare and childminding settings	School sites – as above Targeted support - range of settings	School sites – as above Targeted support-range of settings
Application	On-line	On-line or direct referral	On-line or direct referral
Children Numbers	Childcare – approx. 330 already attending existing provision	Approximately 380 placements	
		Targeted support commissioned by Children's Services - 120 sessions	
Staffing	Registered childcare settings/ child minders	7 settings based on 1:8 staff / pupil ratio (including 1 special school with more enhanced staffing) Appointed Education support staff, Leisure Services, Cultural Services, Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service, Catering, Cleaning, Governor Support	7 settings based on 1:8 staff / pupil ratio (including 1 special school with more enhanced staffing) Appointed Education support staff, Leisure Services, YEPS Cultural Services, Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service, Catering, Cleaning, Governor Support

Strategic management and co-ordination	Denise Humphreys (Education) Donna Jones (Community and Children's Services)	Jess Allen (Community and Children's Services) Non Morgan (Education) Jess Allen – Children's Services targeted support	Jess Allen (Community and Children's Services) Non Morgan (Education) Jess Allen - Children's Services targeted support
Length of provision	4.5 weeks 6hrs/day 4.5 weeks 2/3 hrs	5-11 and 11-16 provision for 4.5 weeks 9:00-15:00 Children's Services targeted support - 2/3 hours	
Costs	Nil - Covid Childcare Assistance Scheme	Based on 7 settings (9:00-15:00) £277, 060 gross Children's Services targeted support (Nil - grant funded)	
Transport	No	Only in exceptional circumstances and where the assessed risk and need suggests that this is essential.	Only in exceptional circumstances and where the assessed risk and need suggests that this is essential.

- 5.3 This programme will be co-ordinated by Education and Inclusion Services, Community and Children's Services and Leisure Services' staff.
- 5.4 **0-4 provision**, will be provided as a continuation of the Covid 19 Childcare Assistance Scheme and this will be provided by registered childcare settings and childminders across the local authority.
- 5.5 The **5-11 and 11-16** provision will be delivered in one of six mainstream school settings by yet to be appointed school support staff, YEPS, Leisure Services, Cultural Services and external providers where required. Provision in one special school will extend from 4 to 19 years and will be delivered by yet to be appointed Education staff. Staff within Education and Children's Services will provide business support. There will be a requirement to cap numbers accessing provision at school sites for health and safety reasons.
- 5.6 In addition to the school-based offer, vulnerable children identified by Children's Services will also have access to targeted support during the summer, delivered by third sector providers. This support will be commissioned by Children's Services, and is a key element of the Children's Services Recovery Plan.
- 5.7 A timetable of bespoke activities will be confirmed once applications have been received and learner profile information collated.

6.0 **STAFFING**

- 6.1 Staffing on schools sites will comprise a mixture of core funded existing staff and newly appointed support staff. Each setting will have a nominated Programme Leader with day-to-day responsibility for leading and managing the setting. Responsibility for the Programme Leadership in the mainstream settings will rest with YEPS and Leisure Services. The Programme Leadership for the special school will be the responsibility of a yet to be appointed Education member of staff. Strategic support will also be provided by Governor Support and Inclusion Services.
- 6.2 To ensure adequate staffing it will be necessary to appoint additional support staff to deliver the provision on school sites. This is likely to include support staff or temporary teaching staff who wish to extend their hours of work and seek additional employment opportunities over the school holiday period. Additional staffing costs are based on a Grade 7 member of staff in each mainstream setting (grade 8 in special schools), with support provided from Grade 4 and 6 staff members (and other existing core funded staff redeployed from other service areas to the settings) to ensure compliance with the 1:8 staff to pupil ratio in mainstream. Staffing levels will be significantly more enhanced in special school settings. Each setting, with have daily access to staff from the following key service areas:

Staff	Role	Daily staff	Funding source
Support Staff Mainstream Special Schools	1:8 ratio 1:2 ratio approx	6 x GR7 42 x GR6 3x GR8 30x GR4	Grant funding
Qualified Youth Workers Youth Support Workers	1:8 ratios	6 x GR9 6 x GR6	YEPS Core budget
Leisure Services(Community Sport and physical activity leaders/co-ordinators, fitness instructors	1:8 ratios	12 x GR6-9	Leisure Service/Sports Wales Grant Funding
Community Youth Offer Co-ordinators/Youth Engagement and Progression Officers	Co-ordination	4 x GR9	YEPS Core budget
Head of Governor Support Governor Support Officers	Co-ordination	1x GR13 6x GR10	Education Budget
Business Support Officer	Administration	3 x GR6	CWR Core budget

7. APPLICATIONS

7.1 Applications for places will be completed on-line using well-established processes. Parents and carers will be required to identify which sessions are required in advance to assist the Council in planning provision and staff deployment. Priority will be given to the following groups of vulnerable children:

- i. Children on the child protection register
- ii. Looked after children, where there is risk of placement breakdown
- iii. Children receiving care and support (but not looked after or on the child protection register)
- iv. Children with a statement of special needs
- v. Other looked after children

Children will be prioritised by Children's Services based on the level of presenting need and risk. If there is any spare capacity in provisions, consideration will be given to essential workers who work in the NHS and care workers, including staff who are involved in the delivery of the childcare and summer activity programme.

It is highly likely that there will be high demand for vulnerable learner placements.

7.2 Applications will open from the 8th of July and will close on the 12th. The programme will commence on Wednesday 22nd of July and will cease on Friday the 21st of August.

7.3 The Education Directorate will be responsible for processing the applications, confirming placements and providing each setting with all the necessary details relating to the applicants prior to children commencing the programme. Where demand exceeds supply of places, Children's Services and Education will agree on placements. Registration lists will also be provided for daily completion to ensure effective records are maintained. Education will play a key role in co-ordinating and planning the provision in the early stages and will provide daily support in partnership with Programme Leads thereafter.

8. FACILITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Guidance on the effective management of settings and risks during this pandemic is available and will be provided to each setting to ensure that there are standardised operating procedures across all settings, and compliance with social distancing, good hygiene, infection control and management practices. Risk assessments and plans will be completed prior to

the commencement of the programme. Each member of staff will be provided with a copy of the Guidance and will have to sign to confirm that they have read and understood the document and requirements. All settings will have an Allocated Programme Leader in charge and on site on a daily basis, who will be responsible for the safe and effective co-ordination and delivery of the programme in each setting.

9. SAFEGUARDING

- 9.1 It will be a requirement that at least one member of staff in each setting has a current Level 3 safeguarding certificate and that all other staff are trained to Level 1. At least one member of staff on site should be First Aid trained.

10. TRANSPORT

- 10.1 Transport will not be provided unless there are exceptional circumstances and the level of assessed risk and need from a social care perspective is such that this is deemed to be essential for engagement and access.

11. CATERING

- 11.1 Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all eFSM learners and all learners in special school settings.

12. PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- 12.1 The demand for the programme will be continuously reviewed to ensure that staffing resources are appropriately deployed in line with emerging needs and priorities. However, continuity in staffing will be maintained where possible to ensure that there are opportunities for developing effective relationships with vulnerable learners.

13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

14. CONSULTATIONS

- 14.1 No consultation exercises have been undertaken.

15. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 The 0-4 provision has no financial considerations as the Covid Childcare Assistance Scheme covers these costs.

15.2 The costs of delivering the school based Activity Programme for 5-11 and 11-16 year olds (mainstream) and 4-19 (special schools) are detailed as follows:

		Original cost	Less YEPS contribution	Less Leisure contribution	Net additionality
	weeks	5			
			12 officers	12 officers	
Mainstream (1 GR 7 staff member per mainstream site)	GR7	16,363			16,363
Mainstream (42 GR 6 staff)	GR6	101,708	- 29,060	- 29,060	43,589
Special (3 GR 8 staff member per site)	GR8	9,033			9,033
Special (30 GR 4 staff)	GR4	63,244			63,244
Catering staff (1 Cook & GKA per site 4 hrs per day)		16,718			16,718
Food cost - based on 366 pupils (336 main + 45 special)		16,928			16,928
Cleaning (7 sites)		23,018			23,018
Trade Waste (est cost of £100 per week per setting)	100	3,500			3,500
Resources £1k per setting		7,000	- 7,000		-
Caretaker		16,048			16,048
Utility costs - contribution to schools		3,500			3,500
Total		277,060	- 36,060	- 29,060	211,940
				Funding	212,000

The gross costs of the scheme are £277,060 but this reduces to £211,940 as staffing requirement is partially met by core budgeted youth workers and leisure staff. Please note that catering costs are included for all learners as a precautionary measure.

15.3 Additional activity costs of up to £60k will be funded from the Youth Engagement and Participation core budget. This resource will be used to fund additional commissioned staff to deliver activities and any materials and resources. This will provide activities for young people aged 11-16 in

mainstream and 11-19 in special schools. There will also be some potential to deliver some commissioned activities with 4-11 year olds also.

- 15.4 The annual allocation of £100k for Play from the Children and Communities Grant and will be used to commission external providers to fund targeted support sessions.
- 15.5 The Council will also apply to the £1.6m fund recently announced by the Welsh Government Education Minister to fund summer childcare schemes for 5-16 year olds to ensure that most costs are covered. A further application will also be made for the £1m fund across Wales for an enrichment programme for disadvantaged learners. Further details is expected from Welsh Government shortly.
- 15.6 It should be noted that transport costs for exceptional cases are not included.

16. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 16.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

17. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 17.1 Ensuring that we have accessible childcare for our vulnerable children and essential workers (where capacity allows) will have a positive impact on the Corporate Plan priorities of People and Prosperity, as it has the potential to reduce demand on statutory services and enhance the opportunity to minimise the impact of Covid 19 on the health and wellbeing of our children and young people.

18. CONCLUSION

- 18.1 The past few months have been very challenging for our children, families and communities with many facing significant financial and social hardship as a result of the Covid 19 outbreak. This has resulted in some children becoming increasingly vulnerable and requiring statutory services. In an attempt to support families with the greatest need during the Covid 19 outbreak, the local authority proposes to put in place an extensive childcare and activity programme during the school closure period. With likely ongoing challenges relating to unemployment and escalating hardship for some, the provision of childcare and targeted support during the summer closure period could provide much needed respite for families with children on the child protection register, in need of care and support, children looked after and children with statements of SEN. These children will be prioritised to ensure that those with the greatest need access provision.

- 18.2 The fight against Covid 19 continues and the restrictions imposed as a result of lockdown have impacted adversely on the capacity of families to attend their place of work. However, with the easing of some restrictions and a reduction in the number of confirmed cases the need for providing emergency childcare has diminished. Where capacity allows, some limited provision will be available for NHS and social care staff where this is possible.
- 18.3 The Council has an established history of providing summer schemes, which have become more streamlined as a result of austerity in recent years. Consideration now needs to be given as to whether re-investment is required to support the most vulnerable in our communities during the school closure period and to limit the risks of children requiring statutory services.