

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No. 3

DATE

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Play Sufficiency Assessment and
Action Plan
Scrutiny Committee Report
February 2017

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Committee members on the feedback received from Welsh Government on the Play Sufficiency Assessment, following a national workshop.

The report will also address the concern raised by the Committee about the use of electronic devices in play provisions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the report

3. WELSH GOVERNMENT PLAY SUFFICIENCY WORKSHOP

The Play and Family Information Service Manager attended a PSA Workshop on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in November 2016. The workshop was facilitated by Christine Grimshaw (CG) from the Welsh Government Childcare and Play Team.

It was confirmed that 'Play Wales', the national charity for children's play, had been commissioned by WG to review all the 22 Welsh PSAs and compile a report for the Minister. The review of the PSA's highlighted the following commonalities across the 22 local authorities:

- Financial pressures and implications.
- Third Sector organisations were seen as valued resources.
- There were strong working relationships and positive links being made at PSA working groups.
- There were stronger links being forged between Family Information Services and Play services through the PSA data/information gathering process
- Disabled Childrens Play was heavily reliant on Families First (FF) funding. There were concerns on how this would change due to the realigning of FF funding.

A number of other issues were also discussed:

- The impact that restructures and cuts were having on play provision and services; 5 play associations had closed since 2013.
- Due to the uncertainty of direction of the Community First, it was anticipated that withdrawal of this funding could directly impact on the delivery of some play provision.
- It was recommended to change the population data parameters (geographical) from lower super output areas to wards.

Questions posed at the event and two further events held in different parts of Wales, were gathered together by WG for presentation to the Minister. Questions and responses would be shared with the local authorities in due course.

4. ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN PLAY PROVISION

Electronic and gaming devices are available within Play provision, however, their use are discouraged in favour of outdoor, gross motor play and indoor, creative play.

Below is the extract from the PSA - Consultation Report 2015:

Children were asked, 'What stops you playing outside'?

The children responded: 43.30% said that they were too busy playing games on the Xbox / PlayStation / Wii to play outside, whereas 27.73% said that they were too busy with clubs like football or other things. 11.84% said they didn't want to play outside and 5.30% said they weren't allowed to play outside."

5. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note the information.