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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Play Sufficiency Assessment
Review of Progress since 2019 and Action
Plan 2022 until 2025

(June 2022- Cavet- Action Plan Awaiting Formal Cabinet Approval July 2022)

- Almost a third of secondary aged children reported never or hardly ever going out to play, with staying at home and using technology for play sometimes the reason for this.
- Unsurprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the way children think about play. Whilst it may have provided additional opportunities or boosted outdoor play in some areas, many parents reported that their children now feel anxious going out to play due to reduced socialising during the lockdowns.
- Play providers noted the impact of the pandemic on the numbers accessing their provision, with some reporting that numbers had drastically dropped as CYP did not return or had grown out of the provision by the time it reopened post-lockdown. Almost a fifth of children surveyed reported that they do not enjoy playing out as much since the pandemic.
- 50% of providers have experienced children having difficulty joining in with certain activities because of an Additional Learning Need (ALN) or disability. Disability sport was raised as an area that is not always promoted sufficiently by both playworkers and parents, and therefore CYP miss out on these opportunities. Parents also reported a lack of suitable fixed play equipment for children with ALN and disabilities, and that there are not always sufficient trained staff available at play settings to provide for all children's needs.
- There are seemingly fewer after school clubs than there have previously been, and only one out of school provision specifically for children with ALN.
- The successful play events that have been held by the Local Authority over the past 2-3 years have been made possible because of significant funding provided by Welsh Government. Whilst an annual grant is now provided for holiday playwork, the Play Team's capacity is limited, and the Local Authority will only be able to continue to hold and promote such events if funding is provided. The Local Authority are not always aware of when or how this funding will be provided which makes it difficult to plan for the future.
- Both providers and families felt that holiday provision is not always affordable or accessible, and funding is not always provided at certain times of the year, for example at October half terms.

Progress on Matters

Areas of improvement during 2019-2022:

The following criteria moved from Red to Green RAG status during the period:

- The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for.
- 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

The following criteria moved from Amber to Green RAG status during the period:

- The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard
- The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds
- The Local Authority ensures that partners offering playwork provision are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance

- Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards
- The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children
- The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low-income families
- The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers
- 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
- The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards
- The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes
- 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
- The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives
- 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)
- The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required
- The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork
- Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork
- The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers
- There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children
- Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play
- The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:
 - making space available and suitable for play
 - organising play events
 - positive attitudes towards children and play
 - training on the importance of play.
- Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day
- 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
- The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge

Areas of focus for 2022-2025:

The following criteria remained Red RAG status during the period:

- The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities
- The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community
- The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play

The following criteria moved from Green to Amber RAG status during the period:

- 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
- Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion
- There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children
- The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance
- Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities
- The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area
- The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed

In order to address the areas for improvement, the Local Authority is currently implementing the following:

- The OSA is currently in the process of being reviewed, to ensure that all areas used for play are considered
- While no formal mechanism is in place, the Local Authority has focused on inclusion since the last PSA to ensure suitable resources and equipment are in place for children with ALN and disabilities, and will continue to further this work
- Whilst the Play Team does not currently have the necessary funding or capacity to promote play through paid media, significant work is done to ensure that the 30 days of play campaign and events such as Playfest are promoted to families of all backgrounds
- The pandemic has put a strain on the Local Authority's ability to work as closely with schools. However, projects that were begun pre-pandemic, such as the Community Schools pilot project delivered by Play Wales, will now continue to ensure that regular outdoor play is high on the agenda

Matters- Context

Matter A: Population

What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2019?

The County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil has a population of around 60,000; that is more people per square km than Wales as a whole. A brief summary of the County Borough, in comparison to the rest of Wales, shows Merthyr Tydfil has the:

- 4th highest percentage of people aged under 16 in Wales
- 3rd lowest percentage of people aged over 65 in Wales
- 2nd highest percentage of people claiming benefits in Wales
- 3rd highest average band D council tax in Wales

(Source: www.mylocalcouncil.info, February 2022)

Based on mid-year 2020 population estimates from StatsWales, there are 12,880 children aged 0 to 17 living in Merthyr Tydfil, an increase of 504 children since 2017. This represents just over 21% of the entire population which is in line with the trends noted in the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment. Of these children, 3494 or 27% are aged 0 to 4 (Early Years), a decrease of 2% since the previous PSA. 5331 or 41% are aged between 5 to 12 (which could be referred to as ‘middle childhood’), a decrease of 4%, suggesting the demographic is shifting towards fewer younger children and 3244 or 26% are aged between 13 and 17 (the teenage or adolescent years) which is in line with previous figures.

Table 1 outlines the population of 0–17-year-olds aligned to each ward in the Merthyr Tydfil locality as forecast by the Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards and 2021 Local Authorities in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex.

Table 1 - Population of 0–17-year-olds in Merthyr Tydfil wards

Ward name	Under 2-year-olds	2-year-olds	3–4-year-olds	5–7-year-olds	8–11-year-olds	12–14-year-olds	15–17-year-olds	Totals
Bedlinog	106	39	96	155	199	132	116	843

Cyfarthfa	161	103	215	341	437	290	242	1,789
Dowlais	159	80	171	226	276	226	191	1,329
Gurnos	148	72	149	276	361	243	225	1,474
Merthyr Vale	82	50	105	139	180	132	134	822
Park	76	40	99	111	171	148	129	774
Penydarren	134	67	143	273	362	225	211	1,415
Plymouth	84	50	101	207	241	174	150	1,007
Town	140	101	169	243	356	290	229	1,528
Treharris	149	66	157	210	274	197	195	1,248
Vaynor	67	43	72	92	140	121	116	651
Totals	1,306	711	1,477	2,273	2,997	2,178	1,938	12,880

Table 2 below shows an alternative of aligning the population of 0–17-year-olds to LSOAs.

Table 2 - Population of 0–17-year-olds in the Merthyr Tydfil locality aligned to ward (Source: ONS 2019)

LSOA	0–2-year-olds	3–4-year-olds	5–7-year-olds	8–11-year-olds	12–14-year-olds	15–17-year-olds	Total 0-17s
W01001289 Bedlinog 1	48	31	49	58	53	40	279
W01001290 Bedlinog 2	97	65	106	141	79	76	564
W01001291 Cyfarthfa 1	86	46	97	129	85	80	523
W01001292 Cyfarthfa 2	77	76	107	132	79	62	533
W01001293 Cyfarthfa 3	52	57	69	88	61	53	380
W01001294 Cyfarthfa 4	49	36	68	88	65	47	353
W01001295 Dowlais 1	69	51	63	53	53	46	335
W01001296 Dowlais 2	43	36	44	63	47	48	281
W01001297 Dowlais 3	71	41	53	78	66	50	359
W01001298 Dowlais 4	56	43	66	82	60	47	354

W01001299 Gurnos 1	83	55	79	114	70	56	457
W01001300 Gurnos 2	62	40	101	104	77	77	461
W01001301 Gurnos 3	75	54	96	143	96	92	556
W01001302 Merthyr Vale 1	53	45	47	49	41	55	290
W01001303 Merthyr Vale 2	41	31	38	61	48	31	250
W01001304 Merthyr Vale 3	38	29	54	70	43	48	282
W01001305 Park 1	31	18	31	55	39	43	217
W01001306 Park 2	45	33	45	70	54	46	293
W01001307 Park 3	40	48	35	46	55	40	264
W01001308 Penydarren 1	46	30	75	116	73	57	397
W01001309 Penydarren 2	43	39	99	92	64	57	394
W01001310 Penydarren 3	51	35	52	76	42	58	314
W01001311 Penydarren 4	61	39	47	78	46	39	310
W01001312 Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 1	41	23	54	54	43	44	259
W01001313 Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 2	33	26	61	70	43	43	276
W01001314 Plymouth (Merthyr Tydfil) 3	60	52	92	117	88	63	472
W01001315 Town 1	65	35	39	50	55	42	286
W01001316 Town 2	72	49	107	165	122	86	601
W01001317 Town 3	44	38	46	79	70	55	332
W01001318 Town 4	60	47	51	62	43	46	309
W01001319 Treharris 1	47	46	36	58	41	45	273
W01001320 Treharris 2	43	15	53	55	47	53	266
W01001321 Treharris 3	56	47	58	89	55	60	365
W01001322 Treharris 4	69	49	63	72	54	37	344

30.06.22- Cavet- Draft PSA Action Plan – awaiting formal Cabinet Sign Approval July 2022.

W01001324 Vaynor 2	71	47	47	74	74	77	390
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The Welsh Government document: Revised 2018-2019 Local Authority population projections for Wales (up to 2043) outlines that overall, the population of the Merthyr Tydfil locality is forecast to **increase** by 2.8% between 2018 – 2028.

In terms of additional population forecasts, the repository StatsWales projects (again, an increasing trend) that:

- Between the period 2022-2025 the population of resident in Merthyr Tydfil will increase by 0.7% (452 residents) and
- Between the period 2022-2027 the population of resident in the Merthyr Tydfil will increase by 1.1% (694 residents).

The Welsh Government document, *Local Authority population projections for Wales: 2018*, which was published in summer 2020 outlined how the majority of local authorities in Wales are projected to have a population of between 100,000 and 200,000 by 2028.

In terms of birth rates for the Merthyr Tydfil locality, Table 3 below details metrics in each of the locality's wards for the year 2019.

Table 3 – Year 2019 birth rates for the Merthyr Tydfil locality (Source: ONS 2019)

Ward name	2019 Births of residents
Bedlinog	57
Cyfarthfa	72
Dowlais	84
Gurnos	70
Merthyr Vale	48
Park	33
Penydarren	64

Plymouth	45
Town	73
Treharris	72
Vaynor	29
Totals	647

Table 3 indicates that the ward with the highest number of new births pre-pandemic was Town, followed in (equal) frequency by the wards of Cyfartha and Treharris.

Table 4 shows inflow migration and outflow migration aligned to the Merthyr Tydfil locality for the period 2018-2019 (Source: ONS 2019)

The Table indicates that inflow, in particular international inflow was higher than outflow of people. Previous years had shown an identical incidence and the proportion of inflow in comparison to outflow had been increasing year-to-year.

Mid 2018 – Mid 2020					
Merthyr Tydfil	Mid-2019 Population Estimate = 60,326	Permanent International Migration		Internal Migration from within UK	
		Inflow	Outflow	Inflow	Outflow
		129	86	1,682	1,605
	Mid-2020 Population Estimate = 60,424	Permanent International Migration		Internal Migration from within UK	
		Inflow	Outflow		Inflow
		132	63	1,406	1,336

In terms of ethnicity, Table 5 indicates that number of children who were resident in the locality in 2019 from specific backgrounds.

Table 5 - number of children and young people resident in the Merthyr Tydfil locality in 2019 from specific ethnic backgrounds (Source: ONS 2019)

Age	White	White British	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
0	0	640	613	7	8	1
1	1	698	668	7	9	1
2	2	712	682	7	10	1
3	3	721	690	8	10	1
4	4	783	750	8	10	1

5	5	698	668	7	9	1
6	6	725	694	8	10	1
7	7	756	723	8	10	1
8	8	736	704	7	9	1
9	9	696	663	11	9	0
10	10	731	693	15	8	0
11	11	747	716	12	10	2
12	12	688	662	15	9	0
13	13	653	628	13	9	2
14	14	610	592	13	15	0

In terms of the incidence of Welsh speakers in the Merthyr Tydfil locality the repository StatsWales indicates that in 2019, almost 1:5 of the Merthyr Tydfil population were able to speak Welsh, as seen in Table 6 below. (Source: StatsWales)

Area	All aged 3 years or over	Yes, can speak Welsh	No, cannot speak Welsh	Percentage of people who say that they can speak Welsh
Wales	3,025,400	892,500	2,131,600	29.5%
Merthyr Tydfil	57,500	10,400	47,100	18%

The 2017 Merthyr Tydfil Childcare Sufficiency Assessment stated that in 2013, over a quarter of all children in the locality lived in poverty (as defined by the percentage of children living in low-income families). This was evidently significantly higher than the figure for Wales (20.5%). There also were pockets of greater child poverty within Merthyr including more than 40% of the children living in poverty in the Gurnos ward.

Aligned to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019), the income domain, the local authorities with the highest proportion of areas in the most deprived 10% were Newport, **Merthyr Tydfil** and Cardiff, all at around 20%.

Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentage of Local Super Output Areas in the most deprived 50% in Wales (85.1% or 40 areas). The next highest was the **Merthyr Tydfil** locality, with 77.8% (or 28) of its areas in the most deprived half of Wales.

Furthermore, the WIMD 2019 deprivation profile shows that Penydarren lies within the 10 most deprived areas for the Income and Education domains for Wales and that it also lies within the 10% most deprived (the top 191 areas) in terms of Employment, Health and Housing in the country. WIMD indicator data shows that 46% of people in Penydarren 1 were in income deprivation in 2016-17.

In terms of employment and unemployment rates across the Merthyr Tydfil locality in September 2021, 71.9% of the adult population were classified as economically active and in employment. 4.8% of the adult population were classified as unemployed and this was 0.6% higher than the average for Wales. It can be noted that the Joseph Roundtree Foundation 2020 report: Poverty in Wales highlighted how areas of Wales have very high numbers of unemployed claimants per vacancy and that Rhondda Cynon Taf (37 claimants per vacancy) and Merthyr Tydfil (35 claimants per vacancy) are the areas with greater than 30 unemployed claimants per vacancy.

Table 7 indicates the incidence of children with ALN resident in the Merthyr Tydfil locality during the period 2020-2021, and there were 1,921 children with an additional learning need(s), with the most frequent types of need (reported by StatsWales) being general learning difficulties, followed in frequency by Autism and then physical disability(s).

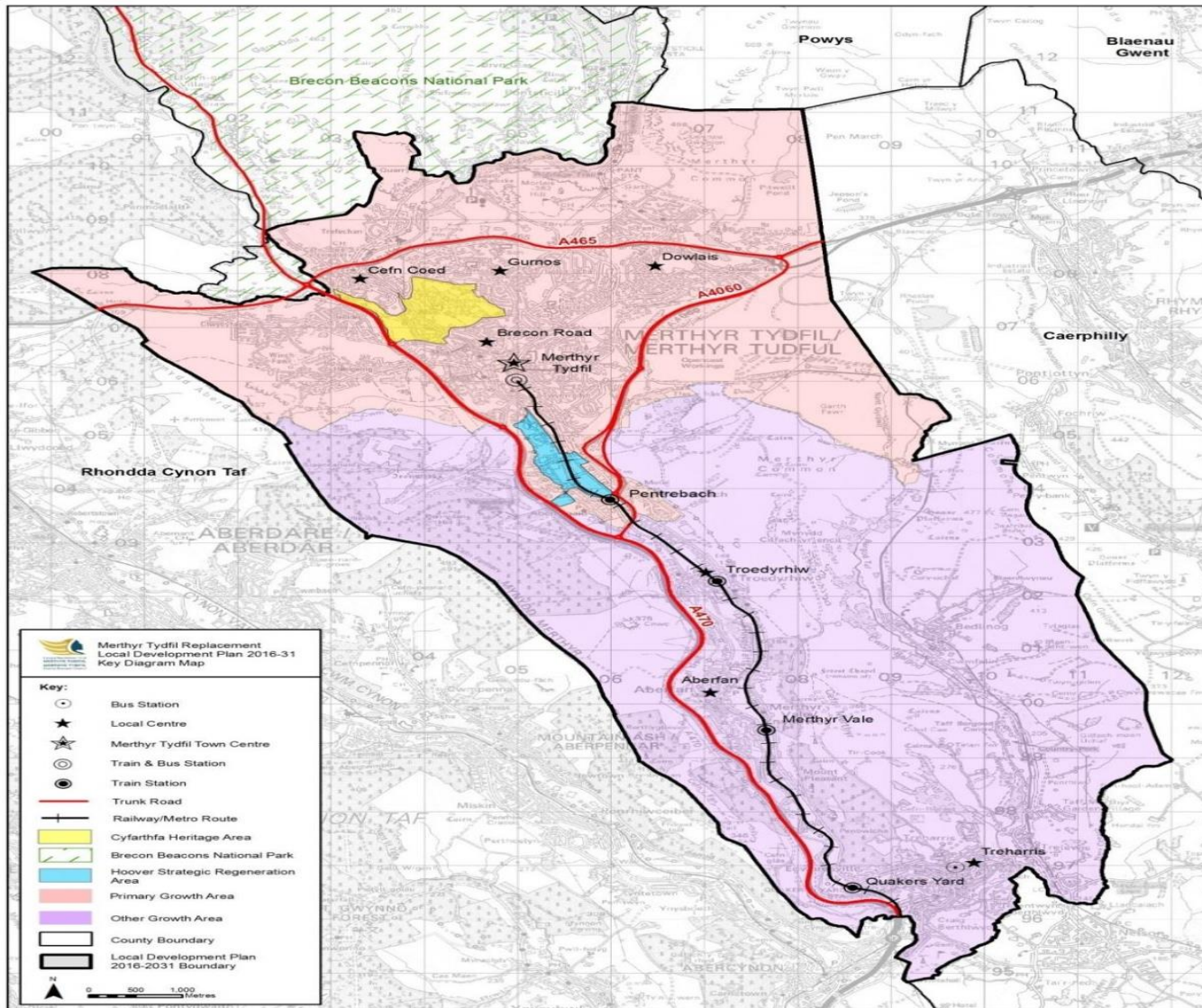
Table 7 - Incidence of children with ALN in Merthyr Tydfil in 2020-2021 (Source: StatsWales)

Location	Statemented	All Special Educational Needs		Total: Special Educational Needs but no Statement of SEN	All Additional Learning Needs
		Total: Special Educational Needs but no Statement of SEN			
		School Action	School Action Plus		
Wales	14,082	46,790	31,816	78,606	92,688
Merthyr Tydfil	284	904	733	1,637	1,921

The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 - 2031)¹ outlines a forecast that 2,250 new homes will need to be constructed up to the period 2031.

¹ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/replacement-local-development-plan-2016-2031/first-replacement-local-development-plan-2016-2031/>

Diagram 4 - Local Development Plan – Key Diagram indicating proposed primary growth area(s)



30.06.22- Cavet- Draft PSA Action Plan – awaiting formal Cabinet Sign Approval July 2022.

According to housing development data, the wards which will account for the highest forecast new housing yields are (in order of frequency):

1. Plymouth ward – with 462 new dwelling yields by 2031 and 231 new dwellings during the period 2022-2027
2. Treharris ward – with 300 new dwelling yields by 2031 and 160 new dwellings during the period 2022-2027
3. Cyfarthfa ward – with 240 new dwelling yields by 2031 and 112 new dwellings during the period 2022-2027

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

To inform this assessment a spreadsheet was produced providing a breakdown of the number of different aged children in each LSOA and electoral ward and the percentage of the population they represent in each area. This was combined with data on population densities, rankings from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation and results from the play sufficiency satisfaction surveys. Whilst the number of responses to the satisfaction surveys was significantly higher than the previous PSA, there was a lack of representation from the Bedlinog ward (and low response from Treharris and Merthyr Vale) for secondary pupils and Cyfarthfa, Merthyr Vale, Treharris and Vaynor for primary age pupils. Responses to the under 5s survey came only from Merthyr Vale, Park, Penydarren, Plymouth and Town.

Have there been challenges?

Due to the pandemic, much of the data used has not been updated since 2019 or 2020. Data sources including (but not limited to) the census and subsequent mid-year population estimates, PLASC database, Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Open Space Assessments and information on services held by FIS could be combined to create community profiles, which could then help to guide interventions in support of children’s play. However, this is not currently the case. Furthermore, none of these existing datasets provide an indication of the sufficiency of children’s opportunities for play beyond the accessibility of designated public open spaces and the availability of childcare services.

Ward level analysis of the play sufficiency satisfaction data is not necessarily representative of smaller areas or particular estates within these wards. For example, whilst the satisfaction survey suggested that the majority of primary aged children living in the Plymouth ward rated high satisfaction, in reality these children attended two particular schools with other schools in the ward not partaking in the survey. As a consequence, children living in particular parts of the ward may have been underrepresented in the survey.

The indication that MTCBC (in line with other Welsh local authorities) has an ageing population suggests that the Council should consider developing play opportunities for older children especially.

How can these be overcome?

Data produced from the satisfaction survey could be added to other existing demographic, public open space and service provision data to create community profiles that provide an indication of the sufficiency of children’s opportunities for play, which would require full ward coverage in completion of the surveys. Postcode data can be used to identify areas where engagement in the satisfaction survey is lowest, and these areas targeted.

Recommendation: Conduct a follow up satisfaction survey in 2025 which ensures coverage of schools and children across the full county, to establish any change in reported levels of sufficiency and to identify areas for further research. To ensure high response rates, schools should be further incentivised to participate.

RAG Status for Matter A

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

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.	x
Criteria not met.	

Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
B1	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for			<p>In February 2021, the Council commissioned a research project from Ludicology, which looked into play of children with protected characteristics and specifically those from rural isolated areas. Findings showed that children in these areas reported having freedom to play out and responses pointed to a strong and long-lived community play culture. No disadvantage for this key group was reported. Children also reported having sufficient time to play out.</p>	<p>Some young people from rural areas reported issues with public transport, which was either lacking or infrequent. These young people have to rely on adults to provide lifts in order to reach some areas in which they want to play.</p> <p>The findings from the Ludicology report showed that litter, broken glass, dog mess, overgrown brambles, as well as old and rusty play equipment were identified as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse and use Census data, once available, to improve play opportunities in areas identified as needing it most • Follow up on finding from Ludicology report to assess whether improvements have been made in rural areas with issues identified through further consultation • Raise the profile of Welsh-medium play and identify and engage partners who can deliver play opportunities in Welsh • Work with parks department to ensure funding for new fixed play equipment reaches rural areas and meets the needs of children with ALN

				<p>significant problems. Girls specifically also asked for a greater range of equipment in their local play areas, as well as shelter from the rain and paths through the forest.</p> <p>Data from the 2021 Census, once available, will support us to prioritise future play opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Gypsy Traveller Site Development Officer to ensure there are sufficient safe play opportunities for CYP • Work with partners to increase the amount of disability sport available across Merthyr Tydfil, ensure funding is directed towards this • Ascertain the play needs of LGBT+ youth • Consider setting up a specific ALN and disability youth forum that works closely with the Local Authority so that the voices of these children are being heard.
B2	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for			<p>Many children and young people report preferring to speak English. Few prefer speaking Welsh. Welsh language is integrated into youth work throughout MTCBC.</p> <p>Recently, Welsh-medium outside play provision has been initiated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that CYP from wards which received no consultation responses are consulted in future to ascertain their needs • The Local Authority should consider how play equipment and resources,

B3	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for			<p>The Council take an inclusive approach to all areas of play, ensuring that it meets the needs of population as a whole. The majority of the population are White Welsh, whilst Polish and other Eastern European communities are prevalent. Children from a range of cultural backgrounds were consulted with by PAG as part of this PSA.</p> <p>The Ludicology report commissioned in 2021 also looked into play of children with English as an Additional Language. Children with English as an additional language have access to a centre for weekly English language education, which allows them to be united and play together. Children who speak English as an</p>	Space and resources at the centre are limited. Very few children in this group reported having the freedom of movement to access opportunities independently while playing out.	and loose parts play equipment can be made available to the public to borrow so that families who may not be able to otherwise afford it have access
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				Additional Language are supported at primary age to transition into youth centres and have contact with the street-based youth team.		
B4	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.			Findings from consultation suggest that few children and young people consider themselves disabled.	Parents have expressed a need for more outdoor play equipment suited to Additional Learning Needs or disabilities. There is not currently an ALN or disability youth forum to advocate for the views of CYP.	
B5	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion			Access to play for children with ALN is improving but there is still a long way to go. Bridging the Gap provides out of school care for	Bridging the Gap does not offer sufficient support during the school holidays (e.g. reduced times, closed for weeks at a time during summer) and is	

				<p>children with complex needs.</p> <p>Active Merthyr also offer disability sports sessions.</p>	<p>currently the only provider targeting children with ALN specifically.</p> <p>Whilst Active Merthyr offers disability sports sessions, these are not frequent and findings from consultation suggest that more of these types of sessions are required.</p> <p>Parents are continually requesting more provision to meet the needs of children with ALN, in particular behaviour needs. Parents want a safe environment for their children, with sensory equipment and play</p>	
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					equipment that is fit for purpose.	
B6	There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children			This is done on a case-by-case basis, the Local Authority will complete an assessment on a child with a disability and see what is available within the community to meet their needs. There is also a leisure link service, which provides three workers who work with disabled children outside of normal working hours.	No agreed mechanism in place. The disability team are keen to support the play team to put more in place for disabled children, but currently do not have the resource to do so.	
B7	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken			This is currently undertaken for any new sites.	No formal process currently in place.	
B8	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites			The Ludicology report found a strong play culture at the Traveller site. Whilst there is no formal play equipment on site, it is surrounded by a grassed	The site is nestled between a dual carriageway with no pavement access. It is likely that children could be aged	

				<p>mounded verge with trees which provides opportunities for play, the road into the site also provides a hard standing for things like football or bike riding, and there's a rope swing that was erected some time ago by a team of playworkers who used to visit the site. Gypsy traveller children and young people make use of the purpose-built community centre.</p> <p>This was shut for a while and then closed throughout the pandemic but is now compliant and back open. The Local Authority has invested in a Development Officer role as support.</p> <p>Gypsy traveller children access after school clubs</p>	<p>eleven before being perceived capable enough of accessing or entering the site independently and safely, meaning that younger children's access on or off the site is reliant on adult accompaniment.</p> <p>The Local Authority does not have a play team that could support or provide additional play support/ delivery at the gypsy traveller site.</p> <p>Practice for Gypsy traveller children should be more</p>	
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				<p>such as boxing, well-being, creative arts, music and songwriting.</p> <p>The Local Authority draws on support from another organisation who will offer the same provision but in the Community Centre on Tuesday mornings.</p>	<p>inclusive and not separated from other services. These services should be interwoven into all services (e.g. youth services, rather than separated).</p>	
B9	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for			<p>Young carers participate in a wide range of play-based activities, many of which are facilitated by Barnardo's, and had also used their online sessions during the pandemic to put together a book of poetry</p>	<p>The nature of the CYP's caring responsibilities meant that many are not able to go out and play as much as they would like, especially during the pandemic when the young</p>	

				<p>for which they had won an award.</p> <p>Activities that members of the group partake in included singing in a choir, art and crafts, sports, playing musical instruments, drama club, Fire Cadets, socialising and using the skate park, gym or pool.</p>	<p>carers groups had to be held online.</p> <p>Issues raised by young carers included feeling unsafe when going out to play due to others' antisocial behaviour, litter, lack of sufficient public transport and the pandemic having an impact on CYP's mental health, due to a lack of socialising during this time.</p> <p>Young carers also noted that the Council has very limited swimming facilities currently, which the CYP are missing.</p>	
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B10	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for			Children and young people are supported to attend Pride month events and previously LGBT+ awareness events have been held, supported by youth workers. No recent requests have been made from CYP for specific LGBT+ play activities.	Previously, the Council has had specific groups for LGBT+ youth, but there are currently no specific groups or projects running for these CYP. CYP within the LGBT+ community may not feel that there is somewhere to go or a group to meet with that fully meets their needs.	
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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?

The data from the surveys has shown that around half of play providers feel that children with disabilities have difficulty in accessing recreational activities, whilst almost 16% of parents reported that their children had difficulty participating in certain play activities, with the majority reason being ALN or disability. Since the previous PSA, the Ludicology report has provided insight into the needs of children with protected characteristics and the recommendations from this report are underway.

Have there been challenges?

There have been challenges in developing the community centre so that it meets a variety of needs, particularly in terms of resources. There is currently no specific support in place for LGBT+ youth. Children and young people with diverse needs also noted difficulties in accessing suitable transport to reach play

destinations and relied on adults providing lifts or walking. There is also a lack of supervised play and after-school provision for children with ALN and with complex needs, inside and outside of normal working hours (9am-5pm) across the county, and a perceived lack of suitable fixed play equipment for children with ALN.

How can these be overcome?

Further research should be carried out into the needs of LGBT+ youth and consideration given to how resources can be developed to meet rising ALN needs. As there is only one current provider of out of school provision specifically for children with ALN, settings should be supported to provide additional support. Fixed Play Equipment to meet the needs of CYP with ALN should also be a priority for discussions and allocation of funding moving forward.

Recommendation: Review sufficiency of ALN provision (play and afterschool) to ensure it is meeting the needs of the communities within Merthyr Tydfil. Take a joined-up approach to ALN provision, working with play providers and schools, playworkers, outside agencies, Health etc. to ensure that play provision is promoted and effective. Continue to direct funding towards suitable play equipment for CYP with ALN.

Recommendation: Conduct further research into the needs of LGBT+ youth within the community and if appropriate, set up specific groups or initiatives to ensure to ensure LGBT+ youth feel included within play activities.

Recommendation: Work with Active Travel to ensure that transport is enabling CYP to reach play destinations of their choice.

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.	x
Criteria not met.	

Open Spaces

Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
C1	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			<p>Assessment undertaken in 2016.</p> <p>The OSA was adopted by the Council at the end of 2016 and covers a wide range of open spaces, including play space, growing space, parks and gardens, green leisure corridors, allotments and gardens, multi-function green spaces.</p> <p>At the time the strategy was completed, action plans were developed to see which spaces had the greatest opportunities to carry out improvements. The Local Authority assessed the local demographic and what they knew to be lacking.</p>	<p>The Open Space Assessment was due for review last year, but due to the challenges of COVID this has not yet happened. The planning document was prepared at the request of planning for the Local Development Plan, and this is to be reviewed by the time the LDP is complete.</p> <p>The review of the OSA will be important in allocating funding.</p> <p>Labour shortages due to COVID-19 have led to delays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSA to be reviewed and used to effectively allocate funding • New access audits to be undertaken • Determine procedures to assess play value • Ensure that Play Priority signs are erected across Merthyr Tydfil and families are made aware of their purpose

				<p>The Local Authority were given £50,000 to spend on developing the smaller parks, where investment had been previously overlooked. The Local Authority also put together a programme of events; this was stopped due to COVID-19, and they have invested this money in the parks. 4 out of 5 of these parks have improved with one gaining a Green Flag rating.</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership Funding from Welsh Government has also been used to successfully implement three projects, including Trelewis Park, wetland areas, creating additional seating and a foot path, willow maze and natures gift garden.</p>	<p>in implementing equipment</p>	
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				<p>£140,000 was also provided for a site next to prince Charles hospital which includes a network of footpaths and seating.</p> <p>c.£33,000 was also provided out of the AWPOG to increase/enhance play equipment, which included outdoor musical play equipment.</p>		
C2	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing			This is available on the GIS layer and has been mapped out.		
C3	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety			<p>Audits are completed and give a clear overview of what needs to be implemented to meet the needs of families. Play Wales have been commissioned to look into how schools open up spaces for active play.</p>	<p>No formal procedure in place for access audits. New access audits need to be undertaken due to new equipment and sites being in place since the last audit.</p>	

				The Local Authority has designated schools to be used as open play spaces. The Local Authority has also been working on street closures to implement safe open play spaces.		
C4	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales			MTCBC Open Space Strategy in place and awaiting review. Standards have been in place since 2016, and a review undertake in order to update distances. The Open Space Standards are useful in working out areas of deprivation in terms of open space and open space quality.		
C5	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space			This was undertaken in the past few years.	There is currently no formal process for this, and no play value assessments have been conducted recently	

					due to a lack of resources.	
C6	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>This takes place as part of the Open Space Strategy and whilst Brownfield sites have always been considered, recently there has been a been a positive change in mindset from developers in the importance of the use of these for play-specific purposes.</p> <p>The Local Authority has been undertaking redevelopment of an existing Brownfield site to develop a new skatepark. The Local Authority also makes use of the Local Nature Partnerships Grant to turn 'grey space to green space'. New areas developed on brownfield sites are always designed with play in mind.</p>		

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces						
Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
C7	The Local Authority keeps an up-to-date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance			The Local Authority keeps a record of all fixed play areas and designated play spaces within the borough.		
C8	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance			This is partly completed under OSA play spaces and done on an as-needed basis; where sites are being developed or improved, these will be looked at individually. Individual sites to be looked at where developed.	No formal procedure in place to assess play spaces for play value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop an assessment process Play Team and Early Years team to support play providers to undertake the All Wales QA toolkit once rolled out.
C9	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals			Similar to above, fixed play sites – will be factored into new sites built.	Some CYP reported sometimes or never feeling safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor how the allocated funding is used to develop fixed play equipment over the

	to improve access and safety			Fixed play sites under development or being built are assessed individually.	while playing or hanging out.	5-year programme and feed this back into the PSA
C10	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard			<p>The standards are in line with British Standards, post-installation inspections are conducted by play inspectors to confirm that provision meets standards.</p> <p>£280,000 has been spent on four new sites as part of a £580,000 5-year rolling programme, which will refurbish the majority of fixed play areas and sites.</p>	<p>There is no overarching formal standard, this is departmental.</p> <p>Some current fixed play areas have been in place since the 1990s, however this is being addressed through the 5-year programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above
C11	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces			<p>Designated play space assessments are made by the Playground Inspection Officer.</p> <p>The distance of local areas for play (LAP), local equipped area for play (LEAP) and</p>	No formal process in place; this does not fall under the remit of the Open Space Strategy.	

				neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP) are taken into account.		
C12	<p>The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds</p> <p>The local authority complies with The Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020 that requires playgrounds in Wales to be smoke-free.</p>			All playgrounds have clear no smoking signs up.		
C13	<p>The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community</p>			<p>It is unclear if all the signs have been removed.</p> <p>Many children and young people reported playing out and enjoying football in particular as their favourite play activity. No problems accessing public spaces in which to play ball games were reported.</p>	<p>The Local Authority to review and ensure this is checked and confirmed.</p>	
C14	<p>The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play</p>	NEW		<p>This has not yet been actioned.</p>		

	Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community					
C15	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made			This is recognised by the planning and estates department within their legislation.	The Local Authority should check the processes in place for this.	
C16	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields			Wherever possible consultation take place.	Consultation on these decisions in the past have faced criticism (PSA 2019). The Local Authority has implemented steps to ensure that future consultations will be run effectively so that all families are able to have input.	
C17	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when			The Local Authority ensures that the British Standards are adhered to.		

	refurbishing or developing new playgrounds					
<p>Open Spaces</p> <p>How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments / Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?</p> <p>The Open Space Assessment and the Play Sufficiency Assessment both complement each other. Both documents champion children’s play and identify suitable and safe places to play. Significant investment is being put into parks and open spaces since the previous PSA, to make this more functional for their communities and promote the use of green spaces. Signs have been put in place to stop antisocial behaviour such as smoking in parks.</p> <p>Have there been challenges?</p> <p>Consultation feedback from many of the children, young people and the public highlighted concerns in relation to their local play areas. The council is committed to challenging the issues often faced within open spaces. Some children expressed their concerns of teenagers taking over their static play areas, litter or broken glass and feeling uncomfortable accessing them for these reasons, and the majority of parents do not feel safe allowing children to play out.</p> <p>How can these be overcome?</p> <p>The Play Team should champion the use of green spaces for play and work closely with the well-being and parks team to ensure these meet the needs of CYP. Once investment has taken place and spaces have been improved, the Play Team should promote these spaces, especially as the majority of CYP referred to going outside and sports as their most enjoyable play activities and those they partake in the most. Signs should be put in place to make it clear which areas are specifically for play. There are currently no formal procedures in place to assess play value and this should be taken into account when looking at Open Spaces for play.</p> <p>Recommendation: Complete a review of the Open Space Assessment and use the findings from these to inform strategic planning for play and to allocate funding where it is required the most.</p> <p>Recommendation: Further discussion should take place to implement formal procedures to assess play value.</p>						

Recommendation: Ensure that green spaces and especially those which have received investment are promoted within the communities so that all families are aware that they are available as play spaces. This can be done through social media, the Local Authority website, local community outreach and through the schools and nurseries.

Recommendation: Ensure that a full, effective consultation is run regarding any future disposal of playing fields.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

How has the Local Authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

Significant funding has been directed towards improving outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces, such as fixed play equipment, over the next 5 years. This will target communities that need it the most.

Have there been challenges?

There is currently no process in place to assess play value, and no formal procedures in place for undertaking play space assessments in designated play spaces.

How can these be overcome?

Recommendation: The Local Authority should ensure that Play Priority signs are erected across the County Borough and that families are aware of their purpose.

Recommendation: Further collaboration should take place between the Play Team and Open Space Assessments/Green Infrastructure Strategies to establish formal procedures for assessing play value, which should be used to inform future play strategy.

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.	x

Criteria not met.



Playwork provision

Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
D1	The Local Authority keeps an up-to-date record of all supervised playwork provision as described in the Statutory Guidance			Formal process and recording keeping in place. System in place to monitor CIW registered childcare providers including afterschool holiday provision and childminders. The Play Team keeps a record of Open Access Play providers. The Local Authority has a training directory and		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Leisure Trust to look into what spaces are available for play use, and how they may be able to let these out free of charge to playworkers.

				<p>calendar in place for playworkers and registered play provision to access.</p> <p>Childcare and Early Years business support is in place via a commissioned approach.</p>		
D2	<p>The Local Authority offers playwork provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance</p>			<p>The Local Authority promotes the value of play and works with registered childcare and open access play provider to develop and offer a rich play environment.</p> <p>There is a dedicated Play Officer in post to liaise and provide support.</p>		

				Training opportunities are offered across the sector, and specific events planned and targeted ie workshops, 30 Days of Play & Playfest, workshops and in conjunction with PlayWales – Play Conference.		
D3	The Local Authority ensures that partners offering playwork provision are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance			As above.		
D4	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			This is not provided by the Local Authority.		
D5	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			Yes, in line with comments above regarding training and business support to the sector.		

				Continue to work with play providers to become CIW open access registered.		
D6	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			As above.		
D7	Staffed playwork provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme			Managed and implemented via the Early year and commissioned business support. Grant opportunities for childcare providers to apply to support QA in place.	Play Wales are currently developing an All Wales QA programme but this is not yet ready for rollout.	
D8	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.			All commissioning is implemented via the Local Authority procurement and contracting regulations. Cymryd Rhan is commissioned to provide business support. Flying Start has developed a 'Good Practice Monitoring	To review and explore a similar monitoring tool with open access play provider	

				Tool' to support childcare settings.		
D9	The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) playwork provision for children				The childcare sector operates from areas that require charges e.g. schools, community halls, which creates barriers to sustainable provision.	
Structured recreational activities for children						
Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
D10	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities			Run groups in line with 3 Rs which support childcare development. The National Free Swim Programme by Sport Wales has been promoted to under 16s and free family swim vouchers given to certain families.	There is supported funding for some groups only. Initiatives have been started to promote play and sports to families who are not currently engaging,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote free initiatives to ensure families are taking advantage of sport and recreational activities available to them Raise awareness of the importance of keeping active not just to CYP but to parents too

				<p>Active Merthyr provide free play activities such as family walks, bingo walks, geocaching in local parks etc.</p> <p>There is funding set up to support children to do physical activities such as ride a bike etc.</p>	<p>but there is still a knowledge gap within some groups as to the importance of accessing physical activity.</p> <p>There is currently no formal strategy in place for this. Whilst the Leisure Trust are contracted to provide services on behalf of the authority the contract model is very prescriptive and does not allow freedom to operate and adapt to the types of activity that are wanted and needed in the local area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to develop a strategy that allows the Local Authority to implement a joined-up approach to leisure, sport and recreational activities for CYP by bringing together the Local Authority, the Leisure Trust and other providers e.g., similar to the story, rhyme and play sessions that happen in the libraries with a physical literacy element • Explore play training avenues for Youth Staff.
D11	The sports agenda contributes to the provision			Active Merthyr Tydfil develops the provision of		

	<p>of sufficient recreational activities for children</p>			<p>sport and physical activity across MTCBC in a number of ways. They work closely with schools to support the development of extra-curricular opportunities and upskill school staff, support local clubs, groups and organisations with funding applications, advice and development opportunities and develop new initiatives to tackle barriers to participation and ensure that everyone across Merthyr has the opportunity to be physically active. They also advocate and promote the benefits of sport and physical activity and have run a Young Leaders programme to teach older children how to promote play in school to younger children</p> <p>As well as promoting free play activities, Active</p>		
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				Merthyr also support providers to deliver paid for activities such as tots' football, rugby and aqua tots, as well as fun games activities based around gymnastics to promote enjoyable sport for younger children.		
D12	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children			<p>The Leisure Trust has been successful Arts Council grant to bring creatives together within Merthyr around a 'forum' model.</p> <p>Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre provide cultural and arts activities. Forest School activities are also available during the summer and guidance is given around training.</p> <p>The young carers group offers opportunities such as choir, poetry writing and theatre visits. Support for</p>	<p>There is no clear cultural or arts agenda in Merthyr Tydfil, with no Arts professionals or development officers employed in the Local Authority for a number of years.</p> <p>Barriers can sometimes be created because of paid participation.</p>	

				culture and the arts is in place for 3–5-year-olds.		
D13	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association			The youth team deliver youth clubs, youth centres and street work, largely targeted at 11–25-year-olds. They provide informal learning opportunities and opportunities to play outside through the ‘Come Outside’ initiative.	Whilst the needs of CYP are being met, there is no transitional play qualification route for Youth Staff. Parental engagement is an area for development.	

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?

The Early Years team ensure that play provision meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards. The Flying Start Good Practice Monitoring Tool has been developed to support settings in raising standards for children’s learning and improving the quality of preschool provision across Merthyr Tydfil.

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

Although it is play providers’ choice whether to complete quality assurance programmes, there are grant opportunities for childcare providers to apply to support this initiative. During the consultation carried out as part of the PSA, children, parents and play providers were consulted on the quality of play provision. Play providers reported overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents on the quality of provision and children were largely happy with the places they were able to play, including the under 5 age group.

Have there been challenges?

All play settings currently pay for their premises. In addition, whilst there are sufficient leisure opportunities available for CYP in Merthyr, including both free and paid-for activities, it is sometimes a gap of knowledge or awareness from families as to why accessing these activities is beneficial to CYP. There is only currently one public swimming pool in Merthyr Tydfil and take up of the National Free Swim Programme and family swim vouchers has not been as high as it could be. There are lots of standalone strategies around play, active travel, sport development etc. but nothing that brings all these strands together to a common goal. Currently, there is a lack of joined up thinking about how each of the areas and services feed into the corporate priorities and no meaningful measurements of the impacts of organisations. Also lacking is a way for the organisations to have feedback around impacts.

How can these be overcome?

Disseminate messages as to the importance of leisure and cultural opportunities and chance to access free activities through key partners. Raise awareness of keeping active through continuing to promote activities such as those targeted at new mums around understanding the importance of being active with their children. Continue to reach out to community groups to promote leisure and consider subsidising or funding premises for playwork, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Bring together organisations to build a strategy that addresses key issues such as obesity in CYP in Merthyr and have methods in place to measure the impact of this strategy.

Recommendation: Address the knowledge gap through continuing to work closely with Active Merthyr and promoting free recreational activities, particularly targeted at disadvantaged families.

Recommendation: Continue to promote initiatives such as free family swim vouchers through various media, community engagement and through schools to ensure the families most in need are being targeted.

Recommendation: Take a joined-up approach to leisure and recreation, including the Local Authority, Leisure Trust and other providers to ensure that all are working towards a common goal.

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.	x
Criteria not met.	

Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
E1	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low-income families			This information is held as part of the CSA, as well as for the purpose of the Forest School project and the Summer of Fun/Winter of Wellbeing.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use further information once available from the 2021 Census to plan the delivery of recreational activities for children in low-income families. • Establish mechanisms for record no cost/low-cost provision and premises for play • Look into how subsidised transport may be able to be provided to increase the range
E2	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation			This information is recorded as part of the CSA (see Matter A) and for the purposes of confirming		

				eligibility for Flying Start provision.		of play available to children, particularly those in rural areas.
E4	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas			This information is recorded as part of the CSA (see Matter A) and for the purposes of confirming eligibility for Flying Start provision.		
E5	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.			This information is recorded as part of the CSA and for the purposes of confirming eligibility for Flying Start provision. This information is also held by schools and social services.		
E6	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision			The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision that are registered with the FIS.	This would require all play provisions to register with the FIS.	
E7	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost /			There are records held for this.	A review of the data is required.	

	low-cost premises used for play provision					
E9	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers			The Local Authority records this for provisions registered as childcare. The Local Authority has a list of all providers who have been issued grants.		
E8	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities			Most children can access their play settings within walking distance. A small number of community open access play settings and the young carers groups, provide their own funded transport such as minibuses.	The Local Authority does not currently provide any subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities or Early Years settings. Many CYP reported having to get an adult to give them a lift to reach where they wanted to play or hang out.	

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

The Local Authority holds records of low-cost and no cost provision, as well as supporting families to access funded entitlements for Early Years settings and Flying Start provision. The Local Authority also keep records of all play providers who have been issued grants.

Have there been challenges?

Transport is an issue across Merthyr Tydfil and the Local Authority is not currently providing subsidised transport to any settings.

How can these be overcome?

The Local Authority should consider how it can provide subsidised transport to settings, especially those in rural areas or for groups of children with protected characteristics.

Recommendation: Assess where the pain points are in relation to transport to play settings and consider directing funding towards subsidised travel to these areas.

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.	X
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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F1	The Local Authority keeps an up-to-date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas			The Local Authority has recently updated the old system and a record of this is now kept on the GIS. The Welsh Government are also looking to default to 20mph in residential areas with a target date of September 2023, so some of these zones may no longer be needed.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Active Travel to ensure areas of play, not just leisure facilities, are mapped and safe routes identified • Undertake discussion around the possibility of more road closures for play • Continue to bid for Road Safety funding
F2	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities			<p>There is a mechanism in place to ensure speed and traffic reduction. The Local Authority and Active Travel have conducted speed surveys and traffic surveys, improving access to schools through Active Travel funding and road safety grants.</p> <p>Parks are not currently included under legislation, but Active Travel has considered them when assessing impact.</p>	This has been primarily around schools, rather than play areas in general.	

F3	<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</p>			<p>Active Travel submitted an Active Travel network map to Welsh Government, which shows existing routes and desired future pedestrian routes identified by residents, following months of consultation.</p> <p>The Local Authority have priority lists for new crossings/routes, which help decide where funding is allocated. This is assessed annually and implemented using Active Travel funding, Safe Route funding, road safety capital funding and road safety revenue funding.</p>		
F4	<p>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</p>			<p>Active Travel submitted an Active Travel Network map to Welsh Government, which shows existing routes and desired future pedestrian routes identified by residents,</p>	<p>The Local Authority should ensure to consider parks, play areas, MUGAs and other outdoor play</p>	

				following months of consultation. Leisure centre were taken into account in the creation of the map.	facilities when updating the map.	
F5	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities			The Welsh Government initiative to reduce speeds in residential areas to 20mph will be rolled out by September 2023. The Local Authority and Active Travel will continue to conduct speed and traffic surveys.	Parents say they do not feel their children are safe around roads, with busy roads and some vehicles driving dangerously.	
F6	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards			A fair number of children cycle to places to play, and the Local Authority works to support children to learn how to ride a bike. Revenue funding provides money for cycle training for primary school pupils. The Local Authority also delivers annually: pedestrian training, balance ability training,		

				learn to ride sessions and Level 3 training for older children to cycle safely on road.		
F7	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children			The Local Authority has appointed a child pedestrian trainer to deliver this in primary schools, targeted at Year 1 and Year 2 children. This is practical on road training.		
F8	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes			A mechanism in place to close roads for events. Active Travel has also met with the Play Steering Group to put in place a more robust process for play specifically.	Active Travel and the Play Steering Group are currently in discussion to resolve issues around how this runs, how it is funded etc.	
F9	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			This has been taken into account. Active Travel design guidance has been developed and overrides this for new developments.		

F10	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities			This is covered through the Active Travel Act.		
F11	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			Any scheme or initiative developed by Active Travel takes account of this data. Pedestrian accident data is always taken into account, both for adults and children.		
F12	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure			Considered in the Active Travel network map.		
F13	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives			All initiatives are inclusive and adapted dependent on need.		

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.

F14	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)			The Local Authority website has specific sections on leisure, parks, playgrounds and open spaces, as well as specific pages for initiatives such as the Winter of Wellbeing. Information on play sufficiency is provided via the FIS website.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure this is kept up to date with any new play initiatives and that parents are easily signposted to information on play and the importance of play, as well as the services available• Consider how to promote opportunities to families who may not have regular access to the internet, e.g. through posters, flyers in the local community• Work with the youth team to ascertain how parents can be better reached to engage with activities alongside their children
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F15	The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required			This can be provided by the Local Authority if required, and openly available through Family Information Services		
F16	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families			Yes, the Local Authority supports and promote events such as the use of the annual roll out of the 30 Days of Play Campaign, Playfest, Summer of Fun, Winter of Wellbeing and other initiatives to encourage participation for a variety of young people and their parents/carers.		

F17	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play			<p>The Local Authority advertises the importance of play and ongoing play events. Due to their success and the funding provided, the Local Authority has been able to increase the number of Playfests it holds, which are publicised through the FIS and the corporate website. Play is positively promoted through these Playfests.</p> <p>The Local Authority annually publicises Playfest and the 30 Days of Play campaign.</p> <p>This engagement work has led to increased interest from parents to get into playwork.</p>	<p>The Play Team is small and therefore lacks capacity to run extensive advertising/marketing campaigns.</p> <p>The Local Authority's success in publicising and holding events which contribute to positive community attitudes to play has been due to additional resources and grants to make this possible. Whilst the Holiday Playwork grant is now an annually awarded grant, it will not cover the cost of all marketing and advertising.</p>	
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F18	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play			The Local Authority engages parents through its websites, social media channels and the FIS to provide information and encouragement for play.	There is a perceived lack of active parental engagement in the youth sector.	
F19	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play			Signage is used but limited to designated play areas.	Signage beyond designated play areas need to be looked at to promote children's play in this way.	
F20	The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area			The Local Authority engages through the Council's Connect magazine and through free channels such as the FIS and stakeholder networks. Websites have been developed for the SoF and WoW which contain links to all play providers.	The Local Authority does not currently have the funding to engage with anything other than free Local Authority media channels.	

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 Authority promote several walking initiatives to encourage children to walk to areas of play, as well as providing a lot of support for learning to cycle from a young age and road awareness training for children in Key Stage 1.

Have there been challenges?

Lack of public transport available and lack of subsidised travel from the Local Authority. No structure in place for road closures for the purposes of play.

How can these be overcome?

Direct funding towards supporting settings with travel for CYP. Active Merthyr and Play Sufficiency Team to meet to discuss mechanisms with regard to road closures moving forwards.

Recommendation: Active Merthyr and Play Sufficiency Team to meet to discuss mechanisms with regard to road closures moving forwards.

Information, publicity, events

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

The Local Authority advertises the importance of play and ongoing play events. Due to their success and the funding provided, the Local Authority has been able to increase the number of Playfests it holds, which are publicised through the FIS and the corporate website. Play is positively promoted through these Playfests. The Local Authority annually publicises Playfest and the 30 Days of Play campaign.

Have there been challenges?

High reliance on grants in order to hold and promote the above activities. The Play Team is small and therefore lacks capacity to run extensive advertising/marketing campaigns. The Local Authority's success in publicising and holding events which contribute to positive community attitudes to play has

been due to additional resources and grants to make this possible. Whilst the Holiday Playwork grant (£18,000) is now annual, this will not cover the cost of marketing and advertising.

How can these be overcome?

Continue to use free channels of advertising. Community outreach.

Recommendation: Work with the Early Years team to review the findings of the parental engagement project to better understand how to actively engage parents and CYP's around youth work and play.

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.	x
Criteria not met.	

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.

Local Authority Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
G1	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)			<p>There is a formal mechanism in place to record for registered childcare providers.</p> <p>Systems for open access play providers have been and continue to be developed</p>	<p>There is further work to be done to ensure comprehensive information is recorded for all playworkers.</p> <p>Whilst a training audit was recently undertaken, this was limited by voluntary engagement and a lack of capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure mechanisms are in place to record comprehensive information for playworkers • Deploy additional capacity into undertaking the training audit and creating bespoke packages of training that fill needs gaps • Work with steering group to identify how the importance of play and raising the profile of playwork can be undertaken through training • Identify long term funding streams to ensure playworkers

						and parents can continue to be incentivised to undertake training
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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30.06.22- Cavet- Draft PSA Action Plan – awaiting formal Cabinet Sign Approval July 2022.

G2	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards			An Early Years Workforce Development plan is in place, and training opportunities shared across both childcare and open access play providers.	The workforce development plan is due for review.	
G3	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork			Play training opportunities are shared across the play sector. Play providers, whether in childcare or not, can access this.	Consider impact on training budget with this widening training access for training providers.	
G4	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area			Via Early Years Workforce Development plan and a regional approach and agreement, training opportunities are shared across the registered and non-registered play provider sector.	CPD has been disrupted due to the pandemic.	

				Through the Early Years sector and links with Adult Community Learning provider- training opportunities such as Play qualifications and the 'Transition to Playwork' course is promoted		
G5	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork			As above, and via AWPOG grant investment, a training incentive scheme was offered to non-registered play providers – resulting in one provider 5 volunteers enrolling on the Level 1 Playwork course.	Reliance on grant money for incentives	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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G6	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies			Play work is included in workforce development planning and plans.	The workforce development plan is due for reviewed and set against the new WG policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the workforce development plan to assess changes in priorities in light of WG policy and COVID-19 challenges
G7	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers			The Local Authority has a business support contract in place and supports community groups to ensure they have the correct business structures and to apply for external grants.		

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.

G8	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			A training audit has been done for Early Years and Open Access Play.	This does not cover all employees who have an impact on children playing, as defined above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the audit covers all areas of play
G9	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff			The Local Authority does this as part of its training directory and meets the NMS.		
G10	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children			<p>Training Directory shared with a range of professionals throughout the year i.e. childcare and open access providers.</p> <p>Regular events and training opportunities promoted i.e.</p>		

				in collaboration with Play Wales- a Play conference approach being rolled out.		
G11	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play			Training Directory in place, and through workshops and events training opportunities promoted and providers encouraged to participate/ enrol.		

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?

Since the last PSA, the Local Authority has increased the time from the Play Officer to ensure there is a full-time strategic lead within the Local Authority with dedicated time to support the implementation of the Play Sufficiency Duty. This post is essential to facilitating partnerships, maintaining an approach in line with the principle statement, raising the profile of the Play Sufficiency Duty and ensuring consideration is given to children's right to play across the authority.

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*)?

A training audit has been completed for Early Years and Open Access Play. The Local Authority has a training directory and works closely with Education to provide internal courses. Flying Start educational psychologists provide ELSA training. Prior to incentive grants, the Local Authority would encourage play workers to undertake free play qualifications. The Local Authority ensure that general employment needs such as safeguarding, health and safety, first aid etc. are met. The Play Team has joined up with the Early Years training calendar to provide this. The upcoming play conference will provide further CPD opportunities.

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

Since 2015, the Local Authority has a workforce development plan for the early years, childcare and play workforce. This plan is due to review.

WG has recently published new guidance for the development of a 10-year workforce plan which identifies a range of objectives across the three themes of leadership, attracting high quality new entrants, and raising skills and standards across the existing workforce. This includes a distinct objective to *“find a place for play that supports delivery of quality play provision and enabled sustainable workforce development”*.

The workforce plan makes reference to recommendations from both its 2013 and 2016 play sufficiency assessments and the childcare sufficiency assessment. In doing so it recognizes the need to *“up skill the existing children and young people workforce in playwork qualifications”* and the need for *“a structured approach to workforce development to ensure the delivery of quality provision”*.

Have there been challenges?

COVID-19 has created challenges around delivering workforce training and staff retention and recruitment. There has been increased take up in training, but this is due to the incentive grant.

How can these be overcome?

Parents have expressed interest in undertaking playworker qualifications when attending events. The Local Authority should continue to support parents to undertake these types of qualifications. The Local Authority should consider ways to encourage workforce development that are not reliant on incentive grants e.g. by raising the profile of playworker as a profession.

Recommendation: Review the current workforce development plan to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Recommendation: Use the training audit to inform a training ‘COVID-19 recover plan’ for starting up more training sessions to upskill the workforce.

Recommendation: Continue to offer incentives, where possible, for playworkers and parents to complete training. Where this is not possible, raise the profile of playwork through engagement, support at job fairs and championing play.

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.	x
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
H1	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.			Yes, the Local Authority promotes engages relevant groups. The Local Authority also promotes various community events throughout the year and annually promotes the value of play via their 30 Days of	Such initiatives and events are only possible because of grant funding.	

				Play Campaign and Playfest event.		
H2	<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. 			<p>The Local Authority is currently in the process of developing wetlands and has directed funding towards improving fixed play equipment. The street play team promote a positive attitude to play for CYP and community events are held throughout the year. During consultation, CYP were able to explain the importance of play.</p> <p>The Local Authority also works closely with schools to deliver activities and is approached often by people who want to use a space for play purposes. When designing spaces, there is always consideration of the</p>		

				educational/play element, beyond Fixed Play Equipment. For example, safety is considered - making spaces feel safe and welcoming.		
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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?

The Local Authority works closely with the social housing departments, Merthyr Valleys homes which has its youth project and engagement officer and the housing association which has its own community engagement team. The youth service has commissioned services through a legacy fund, including one which is core funded and one which is a funded by a Welsh language organisation.

The Local Authority ensures that accessibility is strong through encouraging participation on social media, promoting the youth team, youth support services website and specific initiatives such as the Winter of Wellbeing and Summer of Fun etc. The youth service is in the process of improving its website and exploring different social media platforms to be more applicable to CYP and to reach greater numbers of parents to seek wider engagement. The pandemic also encouraged increased community work, with more engagement being seen during this period due to support such as working with Food Banks to meet families’ needs. The Come Outside initiative, run by the youth clubs has also been a useful initiative in support youth to access outdoor play provision.

Have there been challenges?

The Local Authority would like to do more consultation to better understand play/training needs, but there is a lack of personnel/resource to do so. More play officers are needed to go out and work within the community.

Whilst most parents will allow their children to access play activities, active engagement from parents themselves could be better.

As COVID-19 restrictions have now eased, there will be fewer visits taking place to homes to engage with CYP and their families.

How can these be overcome?

Settings can continue to reach out to parents and encourage parental engagement. The Local Authority has previously funded activities for families such as summer camps, which it no longer has the resources to do. The Local Authority should ensure that play providers are actively engaged in community and cultural events.

Comments

The Local Authority is currently undertaking a project looking into more effective parental engagement in the Early Years.

Recommendation: Ensure that an agenda of upcoming community and cultural events is circulated to all play providers and follow up on this engagement to promote proactivity.

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.	x
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I1	There is a named person on the Local Public Service			A representative is in place, and who is also a		

	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			PSA steering group member.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Play Sufficiency Steering Group should review the updated Cwf Taf Morgannwg corporate well-being plan and other strategic plans, when ready, when assessing the effectiveness of the Action Plan. Work closely with the Public Services Board to ensure incorporation of play in the Well-Being plan.
12	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			The Well-being plan is currently under review and members of the PSA will be involved in the review process		
Education and schools						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
13	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day			<p>Council funding and AWPOG grant funding has been targeted into outdoor/indoor equipment for schools.</p> <p>The majority of primary and secondary age children felt satisfied or</p>		

				very satisfied with play in their areas, and felt they have sufficient time to play.		
14	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours			<p>The Local Authority is working with Play Wales on a pilot project with five pilot schools, which involves reviewing and looking at expanding after school activities and engagement with parents.</p> <p>The Community Focused Schools project is a priority of Welsh Government, and Merthyr Tydfil has been chosen for a pilot area. Research / consultation has been carried out, findings and next steps are planned.</p>	<p>Some parents are requesting more after school play opportunities.</p> <p>The PlayWales pilot project was affected by COVID-19, as restriction have decreased, and schools have opened up this work will recommence.</p>	
15	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times			The Local Authority is working with Cardiff Met on the Community Focused Schools research pilot.	Most primary schools do not currently provide access to their ground for out of	

				<p>The Local Authority and Play Team are working with PlayWales to pilot a community focus approach with schools.</p> <p>Some secondary schools are ensuring that grounds accessible outside of school hours.</p> <p>There is a running track in south of MTCBC which is accessible to CYP.</p> <p>There is also a hockey pitch, Astro turf and playing fields in the middle of county.</p>	<p>school play and secondary schools largely only do so for after school activities, not for weekends or at other times.</p>	
16	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school			<p>Findings from consultation suggest that around three quarters of children walk or cycle to school.</p> <p>Schools and the Local Authority do good work in encouraging sustainable travel, such as providing</p>		

				secure bike racks and supporting children to learn to ride bikes.		
17	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed			Reduction of school hours – as schools re-opened, school days were reconfigured. Lunchtime/EOD is truncated which reduces opportunities for play in school – more secondary schools, but primary also are considering this.	Schools need to understand the need for play. Some reported that ‘children do not understand how to play’ and this may be in part due to the pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools increase opportunities for play during the school day • Continue to provide funding for schools for play equipment to ensure CYP have rich opportunities for play during the school day • Work with partners to support schools to implement play therapy
Town and Country Planning						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
18	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities			The LDP takes play into consideration and the Open Access Strategy is part of this. Significant detail is provided at a ward level	Parents of children with disabilities feel there needs to be more done to support them. Parents also feel	

				<p>basis about what play areas are needed.</p> <p>Open space sites are protected in the LDP. Within the planning obligations policy, there must be on site play provision delivered on sites of more than 10 dwellings.</p> <p>The EY Team have provided information on 'Plogging' (a combination of jogging and litter picking) to all childcare settings within the Borough including some play settings- this opportunity was opened widely and encouraged for physical activity.</p> <p>Balance Bikes have also been provided between November 2022 and March 2022 to support young children to develop their coordination, balance and use of a bike from a very early stage. Balance bikes</p>	<p>there needs to be sports areas that are accessible for younger children.</p> <p>Shortfalls of formal play areas, one or 2 wards</p> <p>Multifunctional open spaces, protecting these is vital</p>	
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				<p>support the transition to pedal bikes more effectively as children are already used to the need to balance and keep the bike upright from the start, so this part of a pedal bike experience has already been learnt. This early confidence in the use of the bike can support regular outdoor physical activity (in this case cycling) from an early age as well as providing the fundamental skills and confidence to be active on a regular basis. Cycling is a life skill as well as a recreational activity/sport and Active Merthyr have key outcomes based around the use of outdoors for physical activity.</p>		
Traffic and Transport						

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I9	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			The Local Transport Plans informs and directs the Council's Active Travel scheme programme, delivering infrastructure that adheres to the Active Travel Act design guidance, providing improved play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities.		
I10	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.			The Local Transport Plan informs the Active Travel network map requirements to Welsh Government, which shows existing routes and desired future pedestrian routes identified by residents, including those groups		

				which are often marginalised.		
Early Years Plans						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I11	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			Yes, the importance of play is recognised by the EY team and through Flying Start programme.		
Family policy and initiatives						

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I12	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for			This is arranged by the FIS.		

	parents to enable them to support their children to play					
I13	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			Yes, the Families First programme contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities and families can access funding for ASC provision if they are part of poverty programme.		
I14	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			All settings have had advice and support around ACEs - training in line with statutory requirements.		
Inter-generational policy and initiatives						
I15	There are a range of play-based approaches to inter-generational activity			Piloted working with providers to deliver holiday provision, children have visited and taken part in activities at residential and care homes. Training opportunities on intergenerational practice	Due to covid-19, pilots and activities have been on hold but now will continue.	

				training have been delivered by the EY business support contract. Several childcare settings have now implemented sessions within their practice.		
I16	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages			<p>The Local Authority provided funding for this through child development fund which delivered a butterfly/gardening project – brought together different generations.</p> <p>The Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing also promoted inter-generational play activities.</p>	These types of activities are heavily reliant on capacity and funding.	
Health and Safety						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan

I17	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge			<p>The Local Authority has processes in place to promote risky play to ensure children develop independence and are able to assess dangerous situations accurately. Fixed play equipment, Open Access Play etc. all have health and safety statements/policies in place and risk assessments are completed as required.</p> <p>When street closures take place, the Local Authority ensure that they receive informed consent from all relevant parties.</p>		
I18	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)			Risk assessments are completed for activities throughout the council and for organised activities.	It is unclear from the evidence obtained how this is implemented against a risk-benefit approach.	

119	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils			Like many local authorities across Wales, the Council may need to explore and develop a Community Asset Transfer process to retain certain amenities in some communities. There is an opportunity to consider a badged insurance scheme to support local communities to have more confidence to become involved.		
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Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

The majority of primary and secondary age children felt satisfied or very satisfied with play in their areas, and felt they have sufficient time to play. There are several well-used initiatives which have come out of relevant policy, such as cycle schemes. There is a strong collaborative approach to play overall.

Have there been challenges?

Again, many of the implementation activities above are heavily reliant on funding. Whilst collaborative, teams are often small and stretched, meaning they may not always have the capacity to ensure the implementation agendas are fully carried out.

How can these be overcome?

Recommendation: Encourage and incentive schools to supply their facilities for the use of play, outside of school hours, as well as implementing after school clubs. Ensure that schools are aware of the importance of play and need for play in their settings.

Recommendation: Work with agency staff to ensure that play therapy is implemented in schools where appropriate.

Recommendation: Ensure Strategic Partners are kept abreast of play developments and are integrated into strategic plans.

10. Conclusion

There are a number of key priorities arising from the findings of the PSA, detailed below.

The Local Authority should ensure there is a joined-up approach to delivering play opportunities for CYP. The Local Authority should continue to work with the Public Health Board to ensure that play is prioritised in the reviewed Well-Being plan and equally, that play supports corporate goals such as reducing obesity.

In addition, the Local Authority must continue the good work that was ongoing pre-pandemic with schools, to encourage play during the school day and the use of school grounds and facilities for the purposes of play. A joined-up approach between Leisure, the Local Authority and play providers, along with an overarching strategy will allow CYP to access more opportunities for sport, leisure and recreation.

Meeting the needs of CYP with ALN or disabilities was a common theme throughout the PSA. Some parents, providers and stakeholders feel that CYP are missing out on opportunities because suitable provision or suitably trained staff are not in place. Ensuring there is suitable fixed play equipment and appropriately trained staff to meet these children's needs should be a priority. In addition, CYP themselves should be given a forum to advocate for play that meets their requirements.

Capacity and funding are limiting factors to promoting and delivering play. To continue to provide the highest quality play opportunities for all children in the county, the Local Authority will need to look into long term-funding and how this can be maximised and so that they can continue to run successful events that bring families together.

Improving transport to access play destinations should also be a priority for the Local Authority. This is something that was brought up throughout the consultation and something that has been an issue within Merthyr for several years.

Undoubtedly, the pandemic has had a huge impact on CYP and how they perceive and undertake play activities. Time and investment will need to be made into ensuring that the effects of the pandemic on the wellbeing of CYP are minimised, through continuing to provide rich play opportunities and support to families.

11. Way Forward

The Merthyr Tydfil Action Plan has identified the priority themes for the next three years. This has been informed using feedback from services and partners who have contributed to the PSA. We have used the shortfalls highlighted to identify specific areas for development and further work.

Whilst completing the assessment, there were a number of recurring themes, including:

- A reduction in the amount of after school club provision and holiday provision available, in particular specific provision for children with ALN
- Lack of sufficient public or subsidised transport to support CYP to reach play destinations
- Engaging with communities to value and invest in our CYP, including greater engagement with parents/carers around the importance of play
- Need for the development of a range of marketing, promotional and publicity materials to continue to raise the profile of play, including its benefits and importance, and ensure disadvantaged families are aware of the opportunities available.
- The need for COVID-19 recovery support for staff as well as families
- The need for continued, regular funding in order to implement successful play events

The actions outlined in the tables above take into account these emerging gaps. The Action Plan has been discussed and agreed by the Play Sufficiency Steering Group.

Changes and reorganisation within the Local Authority in terms of structures, services and personnel, such as the appointment of a Children's Champion, as well as increased funding from Welsh Government over the past 3 years has invoked an increased awareness and acknowledgement of the play agenda. Provided that careful monitoring and sufficient funding continues, this will allow the profile of play to be raised throughout Merthyr Tydfil in order to deliver sufficient play opportunities for future generations and the health and well-being of communities. The Local Authority should ensure that priorities are realigned to help families recover from the pandemic through accessing community-based play, out of school care, recreational and leisure opportunities and youth services as appropriate.

12. Action Plan

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

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources, including costs	Funding source (New or existing funding streams)
Matter A: Population	Data analysis	<p>Conduct a follow up satisfaction survey in 2025 which ensures coverage of schools and children across the full county, to establish any change in reported levels of sufficiency and to identify areas for further research. To ensure high response rates, schools should be further incentivised to participate.</p> <p>Review Census data once available and feed this into sufficiency planning.</p>	All Matters	<p>Local Authority Officer/Elected Member time</p> <p>Potentially commission external company to conduct next PSA</p>	Existing Local Authority budgets and/or funding made available by Welsh Government to complete the 2025 PSA if available
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	<p>Research development</p> <p>Joined-up approach to working</p> <p>Community engagement</p> <p>Welsh-medium play</p>	<p>Analyse and use Census data, once available, to improve play opportunities in areas identified as needing it most.</p> <p>Follow up on findings from Ludicology report to assess whether improvements have been made in rural areas with issues identified through further consultation.</p> <p>Raise the profile of Welsh-medium play and identify and engage partners who can deliver play opportunities in Welsh.</p>	All Matters	Local Authority Officer time and partner organisation time	Existing Local Authority budgets

	<p>Meeting the needs of children with ALN and disabilities</p>	<p>Work with parks department to ensure funding for new fixed play equipment reaches rural areas and meets the needs of children with ALN.</p> <p>Work with Gypsy Traveller Site Development Officer to ensure there are sufficient safe play opportunities for CYP.</p> <p>Review and work with partners to increase the amount of ALN, afterschool and holiday provision including disability sport, available across Merthyr Tydfil, ensure funding is directed towards this.</p> <p>Ascertain the play needs of LGBT+ youth.</p> <p>Consider setting up a specific ALN and disability youth forum that works closely with the Local Authority so that the voices of these children are being heard.</p> <p>Ensure that CYP from wards which received no consultation responses are consulted in future to ascertain their needs.</p> <p>The Local Authority should consider how play equipment and resources, and loose parts play equipment can be made available to the public to borrow so that families who may not be able to otherwise afford it have access.</p>			
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<p>Matter C: Space available for children to play</p>	<p>Research development Policy assessment Joined-up approach to working Maximising funding</p>	<p>OSA to be reviewed and used to effectively allocate funding.</p> <p>New access audits to be undertaken.</p> <p>Determine procedures and an assessment process to assess play value.</p> <p>Ensure that Play Priority signs are erected across Merthyr Tydfil and families are made aware of their purpose.</p> <p>Play Team and Early Years team to support play providers to undertake the All Wales QA toolkit once rolled out.</p> <p>Monitor how the allocated funding is used to develop fixed play equipment over the 5-year programme and feed this back into the PSA.</p>	<p>B, D, E, F, H</p>	<p>Local Authority Officer time</p> <p>Remaining fixed play equipment funding (£300k)</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership Funding</p>	<p>Existing Local Authority budgets</p> <p>Other available grants, to be identified</p>
<p>Matter D: Supervised provision</p>	<p>Joined-up approach to working Community engagement</p>	<p>Work with Leisure Trust to look into what spaces are available for play use, and how they may be able to let these out free of charge to playworkers.</p> <p>Continue to promote free initiatives to ensure families are taking advantage of sport and recreational activities available to them.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of keeping active not just to CYP but to parents too.</p>	<p>B, C</p>	<p>Local Authority Officer time and partner organisation time</p>	<p>Existing Local Authority budgets</p>

		<p>Look to develop a strategy that allows the Local Authority to implement a joined-up approach to leisure, sport and recreational activities for CYP by bringing together the Local Authority, the Leisure Trust and other providers e.g., similar to the story, rhyme and play sessions that happen in the libraries with a physical literacy element.</p> <p>Explore play training avenues for Youth staff.</p>			
Matter E: Charges for play provision	<p>Data analysis</p> <p>Travel and transport analysis</p>	<p>Use further information once available from the 2021 Census to plan the delivery of recreational activities for children in low-income families.</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for record no cost/low-cost provision and premises for play.</p> <p>Look into how subsidised transport may be able to be provided to increase the range of play available to children, particularly those in rural areas.</p>	B, F, H	Local Authority Officer time and partner organisation time	Existing Local Authority budgets
Matter F: Access to space/provision	<p>Joined-up approach to working</p> <p>Travel and transport analysis</p>	<p>Continue to work with Active Travel to ensure areas of play, not just leisure facilities, are mapped and safe routes identified.</p> <p>Undertake discussion around the possibility of more road closures for play.</p>	B, E, H, G	Local Authority Officer time and partner organisation time	Road safety funding and other relevant grants

	Community engagement	<p>Continue to bid for Road Safety funding.</p> <p>Ensure this is kept up to date with any new play initiatives and that parents are easily signposted to information on play and the importance of play, as well as the services available.</p> <p>Consider how to promote opportunities to families who may not have regular access to the internet, e.g., through posters, flyers in the local community.</p> <p>Work with the youth team to ascertain how parents can be better reached to engage with activities alongside their children.</p>			
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	<p>Workforce development</p> <p>Joined-up approach to working</p> <p>COVID-19 recovery</p> <p>Maximising funding</p>	<p>Make sure mechanisms are in place to record comprehensive information for playworkers.</p> <p>Deploy additional capacity into undertaking the training audit and creating bespoke packages of training that fill needs gaps.</p> <p>Work with steering group to identify how the importance of play and raising the profile of play work can be undertaken through training.</p> <p>Identify long term funding streams to ensure playworkers and parents can</p>	B, H, F	Local Authority Officer/Elected Member time	To be identified

		<p>continue to be incentivised to undertake training.</p> <p>Review the 10-year workforce development plan to assess changes in priorities in light of WG policy and COVID-19 challenges.</p> <p>Ensure that the audit covers all areas of play.</p> <p>Annually review the training budget.</p>			
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	Community engagement Marketing	<p>Continue to reach out to parents and encourage parental engagement. The Local Authority has previously funded activities for families such as summer camps, which it no longer has the resources to do.</p> <p>The Local Authority should ensure that play providers are actively engaged in community and cultural events.</p>	All Matters	Local Authority Officer time	<p>Holiday play scheme grant</p> <p>Existing Local Authority budget</p>
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	Play development Policy development Joined-up approach to working School support	<p>The Play Sufficiency Steering Group should review the updated Cwm Taf Morgannwg corporate well-being plan and other strategic plans, when ready, when assessing the effectiveness of the Action Plan.</p>	All Matters	Local Authority Officer/Elected Member time	<p>Existing Local Authority budget</p> <p>Existing Local Authority Education budget</p>

		<p>Work closely with the Public Services Board to ensure incorporation of play in the Well-Being plan.</p> <p>Support schools increase opportunities for play during the school day.</p> <p>Continue to provide funding for schools for play equipment to ensure CYP have rich opportunities for play during the school day.</p> <p>Work with partners to support schools to implement play therapy.</p> <p>Ensure Strategic Partners are kept abreast of play developments and are integrated into strategic plans.</p>			
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Appendix

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Primary Survey

Table 1 – Age of primary school respondents

Ages of children (in years)	Number of children
7	1
8	4
9	16
10	36
11	26

Table 2 – Ward breakdown of responses

Ward	No. of responses
Bedlinog	3
Cyfarthfa	0
Dowlais	7
Gurnos	4
Merthyr Vale	0
Park	5
Penydarren	7

Plymouth	21
Town	4
Treharris	0
Vaynor	0
n/a²	22
Total	83

Table 3 – Primary schools from which completed surveys were received

Names of schools	Number of Children
Bedlinog Primary School	10
Abercanaid Community School	25
Cyfarthfa Park Primary	12
St Aloysius Primary School	18
St Illtyds Primary School	16
Troedyrhiw Primary School	2

Table 4 – Children’s responses to ‘Do you have enough time for playing or hanging out with friends?’

Answer Choices	Number of responses
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² Data unavailable or incorrectly inputted

1 (no, not at all)	1
2	2
3	19
4	49
5 (yes, loads)	11

Table 5 – Children’s responses to ‘When you’re not in school, what type of places do you play or hang out?’

Areas of play	Number of responses
In my own home or friend’s house	50
In my garden or a friend’s garden	51
At a local sports facility e.g. Football pitch or leisure centre etc.	17
At a local park or field/grassy space	21
At a local playground with swings, slides etc.	32
At a youth or after school club	13
In the streets close to home	15
At a local skate/bike park	5
At the beach	1

At a relative's	1
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Table 6 – Children's responses to 'Where do you most like to play?'

Areas of play	Number of responses
In my own home or a friend's house	35
In my garden or a friend's garden.	39
At a local sports facility e.g. Football pitch or leisure centre etc.	26
At a local park or field/grassy space	17
At a local playground	15
At a youth or after school club	4
In the streets close to home	4
At a local skate/bike park	5
At the beach	1
I don't go out	1

Table 7 – Summary of responses to 'Draw a picture of your favourite activity when you play or hangout'

Answers.	Number of responses.
Sporting activities e.g. football, swimming etc	24
Outdoor activities e.g. walking, cycling	8
Playing at home or at a friend's house	11
Imaginative/pretend play e.g. dolls	1

Video gaming	11
Online activity e.g. gadgets	7
Watching TV or films	2
Playground with swings, slides etc	11
Arts and crafts	4

Table 8 – Children’s responses to ‘Who do you usually play with?’

Person	Number of responses
Friends	48
Family	39
Siblings or cousins	14
By myself	17

Table 9 – Children’s responses to ‘How do you usually get to places where you play?’

Way of Travel	Number of responses
I walk or ride on my own	25
I walk or ride with friends	12
I walk or ride with an adult	11
An adult takes me in the car	13
I get the bus	0

Table 10 - Children's responses to 'How do you usually get to school?'

Way of Travel	Number of responses
I walk or ride on my own	14
I walk or ride with friends	2
I walk or ride with an adult	9
An adult takes me in the car	33
I get the bus	2

Table 11 – Children's responses to 'What's good about your area for playing and hanging out?'

Answers	Number of responses
Sports facilities e.g. football, swimming pool etc	12
Playground with slides, swings etc.	8
Friends living local	6
Skate park	2
Local town e.g. cinemas, arcades etc.	6
Local parks or fields	31
Location in general e.g. quiet, living in the countryside	12

Table 12 – Children's responses to 'What's not good about your area for playing and hanging out and needs to be improved?'

Answers	Number of responses
Cleanliness of local area	21

Outdated or broken play equipment	10
Lack of places in the town	5
Overgrown sports fields or park	16
Local people	9
Roads	4

Table 13 – Children’s responses to ‘How happy do you feel about play in Merthyr Tydfil?’

Answer Choices	Number of responses
1 (Not at all happy)	0
2	3
3	12
4	33
5 (Very happy)	26

Table 14 – Children’s responses to ‘How safe do you feel playing out in Merthyr Tydfil?’

Answer Choices	Number of responses
1 (Not safe at all)	2
2	3

3	24
4	39
5 (Very safe)	11

Table 15 – Children’s responses to ‘Do you still enjoy playing since COVID-19 started?’

Answer Choices	Number of responses
1 (No, not at all)	7
2	8
3	22
4	34
5 (Yes, loads)	8

Table 16 – Children’s responses to ‘How safe do you feel playing out since COVID-19?’

Answer Choices	Number of responses
1 (Not safe at all)	2
2	15

3	27
4	26
5 (Very safe)	9

Under 5s Survey

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Table 17 – Ward breakdown of responses to Under 5s survey

Ward	No. of responses
Bedlinog	0
Cyfarthfa	0
Dowlais	0
Gurnos	0
Merthyr Vale	2
Park	3
Penydarren	2
Plymouth	10
Town	1
Treharris	0
Vaynor	0

n/a ³	10
Total	29

Table 18 – Summary of responses to ‘Draw a picture of your favourite games, with your favourite people, in your favourite place’

Activities	Number of Responses
Using gadgets at home	2
Sports in school with friends	5
Sports outside of school with friends or family	9
Playing games at the park (e.g. tag) with friends and family	5
Imaginative play with friends or family at home or school	3

Table 19 – Children’s responses to ‘How often do you get to play?’

Answer	Number of responses
Lots	20
Often	7
Sometimes	6
Never	1

Table 20 – Children’s responses to ‘Do you always get to play where you want?’

Answer	Number of responses
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³ Data unavailable or incorrectly inputted

All the time	2
Sometimes	12
Not often	19

Table 21 – Summary of responses to ‘If you could choose anywhere to play, where would it be?’

Place of play	Number of drawings
At home	4
Sports field or facility	4
The park	8
Outdoor play area	3
Indoor play area	3
Other	5

Table 22 – Children’s responses to ‘How happy do you feel playing out?’

Rating	Number of responses
1 (Not happy)	0
2	1
3	1

4	9
5 (Very happy)	18

Secondary School Survey

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Table 23 – Age of secondary school respondents

Age	Number of respondents
11	31
12	110
13	124
14	92
15	67
16	10
17	1

Table 24 – Ward breakdown of responses

Ward	No. of responses
Bedlinog	0
Cyfarthfa	20
Dowlais	78

Gurnos	175
Merthyr Vale	2
Park	4
Penydarren	83
Plymouth	4
Town	4
Treharris	1
Vaynor	26
n/a⁴	51
Total	448

Table 25 – CYP responses to ‘Where do you play the most?’

Answer Choices	Number of Respondents
In my house or a friend’s house	313
In my garden or a friend’s garden	96
In the streets near my house	200
On a local grassy area	165
In a place with bushes, trees and flowers	91

⁴ Data unavailable or incorrectly inputted

In a play area with swings, slides and other equipment to play on	152
In the woods near my house	72
On a football field or sports pitch	165
In my school playground	58
Somewhere with water or sand in it	31
On the bike or skate park	91
In a community centre or leisure centre	80
In a youth club	49
In a breakfast club	13
In an after-school club	37
At a holiday club	3
At an adventure playground	12
At a playscheme	2
At a childminder's	1
Indoor play centre	23
Or somewhere else?	103

Table 26 – CYP responses to ‘Does somebody take care of you before or after school who is not a play provider or your parent/carer?’

Answer Choices	Number of respondents
Grandparent	247

Older brother/sister	109
Someone else in my family	139
Friends of my mum	69
Neighbours of my mum/dad	23
Someone else	119

Table 27 – CYP responses to 'Name 5

Answer	Total
Art	15
Basketball	34
Cheerleading	3
Cinema	14
Drama	6
Football	127
Rugby	73
Martial Arts	35
Netball	30
Computer games	39
Other sports (swimming, roller skating, skateboarding, golf, cricket, volleyball, running)	90
Watch TV	12

Go outside/up town/park/hang out with friends	211
Dance	18
Playing or listening to music or singing	29
Biking	27
Horse riding	9
Play games	16
Youth club	29
Cooking/baking	4
Play on their phone	12

Table 28 – CYP responses to ‘How do you usually get to places where you play?’

Way of Travel	Number of responses
I walk or ride on my own	84
I walk or ride with friends	148
I walk or ride with an adult	36
An adult takes me in the car	116
I get the bus	10
I get the train	1

Table 29 – CYP responses to ‘How do you usually get to school?’

Way of Travel	Number of responses
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I walk or ride on my own	60
I walk or ride with friends	69
I walk or ride with an adult	31
An adult takes me in the car	195
I get the bus	33
I get the train	1

Parent Survey

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Table 30 – Ward breakdown of responses

Ward	No. of responses
Bedlinog	9
Cyfarthfa	17
Dowlais	7
Gurnos	13
Merthyr Vale	27
Park	49
Penydarren	22
Plymouth	21
Town	16
Treharris	17
Vaynor	8

n/a ¹	9
Total	215

Table 31 – Parent responses to ‘How many children do you have?’

Number of children	Number of respondents
0	4
1-2	172
3-4	33
5+	3

Table 32 – Parent responses to ‘Where do you allow your children to play or hang out?’

Answer Choices	Number of respondents
At home or a friend's house	142
In the garden or a friend's garden	140
In the streets near my house	40
On a local grassy area	44
In a place with bushes, trees and flowers	22
In a play area with swings, slides and other equipment to play on	122
In the woods near my house	20
On a football field near my house	35
Somewhere with water or sand in it	21

On a bike or a skate park	32
In the community or leisure centre	33
In a youth club	13
In an after-school club	39
At an adventure playground or play scheme	56
In an indoor play centre	93
Somewhere else (please tell us where)	22

Table 33 – Parent responses to ‘What play activities do your children enjoy doing most?’

Activity	Number of responses
Being outdoors/walks/park	91
Arts and crafts	7
Swimming	11
Watching TV	1
bike/scooter/skating	21
video games	5
indoor soft play areas	11
Going to a friend’s	5
football	35
rugby	5

Trampoline	10
Youth club	2
board games	4
Baking/cooking	3
Dancing	1
Toys/dolls	6