

Early Years and Childcare Unit

REPORT CARD – March 2016

What we do

The Early Years and Childcare Unit (EYCU) is part of the Think Family Partnership (TFP). It works closely with the other elements of the TFP including the Family Information Service, Play, Families First and Flying Start. There are 3 staff within the Unit.

The Unit seeks to support all childcare providers throughout the county borough with its main aim of keeping childcare settings open to ensure that the local authority meets its statutory duty of providing sufficient childcare places for those parents or carers who want them.

The Childcare Act 2006 introduced statutory duties for all local authorities which include:

- Providing sufficient childcare places
- Undertaking a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) every 3 years
- Provide a comprehensive family information service

A 3 year delivery plan has been developed as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and this guides the work of the Early Years and Childcare Unit.

We work to support all existing childcare providers and parent and toddler groups and we encourage all groups to work towards a Quality Assurance kite mark to ensure that parents can be confident that their child is receiving childcare that is second to none.

The **Childcare Strategy Grant** is core funding to increase the number of childcare places and to maintain the existing number of places through sustainability grants.

The **Out of School Childcare Grant** is a Welsh Government Grant to support with implementing the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Delivery Plan by increasing the number of out of school childcare places, to maintain the current number and to raise awareness of the Family Information Service. This grant currently funds some staff costs within the Early Years and Childcare Unit.

The **Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme** grant is a grant from Public Health Wales and is utilised to support childcare settings engaged with the scheme to meet the national criteria. The grant funds training and resources.

The EYCU implements the **O Gam i Gam** (OGIG) referral scheme which enables children with additional needs to become integrated into mainstream childcare settings by having the support of a 1:1 childcare worker. A second element of the scheme is the assisted places element whereby OGIG can part fund the childcare fee for families in receipt of out of work benefits.

O Gam i Gam aims to promote and encourage the development of the accessibility and affordability of a range of quality and integrated registered childcare and play provision

Families First funding is utilised for the assisted places and core funding is utilised to fund the additional 1:1 support worker costs.

The Early Years and Childcare Unit supports the Family Information Service with its function of providing information to the

Appendix 1

<p>Funding for childcare settings is made via 4 sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Childcare Strategy Grant2. Out of School Childcare Grant3. Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme4. O Gam i Gam Referral Scheme	<p>public and also within the office taking enquiries. Both teams work in synergy to maximise opportunities to distribute information to families, professionals working with families and to children and young people.</p>
Who We Work With	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mudiad Meithrin• Wales Pre School Providers Association (WPPA)• Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club (CPCKC)• Professional Association of Childcare and Early Years (PACEY)• National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)• Family Information Service• Skills and Training Unit• NPT CVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job Centre Plus• NPT College Group• Coleg Sir Gar• Flying Start• Play Works!...• Communities First• Families First• Neath Port Talbot Schools

How much did we do?

Number of childcare places created:

- 254 new childcare places created
- 315 deregistered childcare places

Number of childcare facilities supported to undertake Quality Assurance

- Childminder - 4
- Daycare - 7

Number of training courses offered:

- Mandatory - 30
- Non mandatory – 14

Number of network events offered:

- Childcare (Full sector) - 1
- Day Care - 3
- Childminding - 3
- Parent & Toddler Group - 2

Number of settings engaged with **Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme (HSPSS)** – 34 out of 151 registered settings.

There are 7 topics within the criteria that childcare settings have to meet in order to achieve the award.

1. Nutrition and Oral Health
2. Active Play
3. Mental and Emotional Health Wellbeing and Relationships
4. Safety
5. Environment
6. Hygiene
7. Workplace Health and Wellbeing

Number of training courses offered through HSPSS – 2 sessions for each cohort – 6 in total

Number of settings engaged with Healthy Snack Award

- Day Nurseries - 2
- Playgroups- 4
- Parent and Toddler Groups - 5
- Out of School Childcare Clubs - 3

Number of childminding briefing sessions – 10

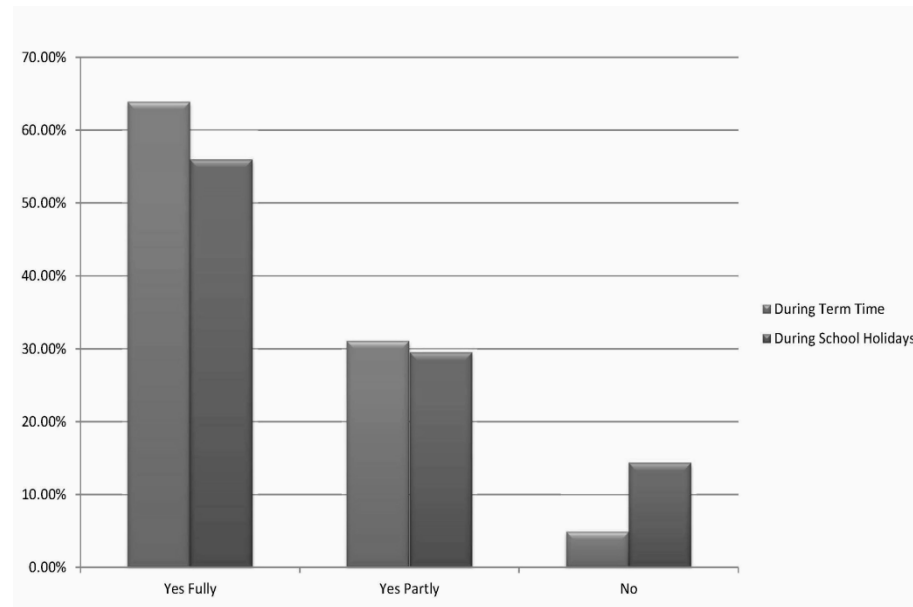
Number of childcare services on NPTFamily database – 187

How do we deliver the service?

The EYCU offers 1:1 support for all childcare providers as well as running childcare networking meeting for childminders day care providers and parent and toddler groups.

Attendance at the networking events is steadily increasing and meetings are becoming more fruitful in the information sharing between childcare settings.

We worked in partnership with Play Works...! to ascertain the demand for holiday childcare in areas of low supply because from the CSA it was evident that parents satisfaction with childcare was lower in school holidays that during term time. This was successful and work is ongoing to develop registered holiday clubs in 2 of the 4 pilot areas. The chart below is taken from the CSA 2014 – 2017 and refers to parents satisfaction levels of childcare



CSA 2014 – 2017 and refers to parents satisfaction levels of childcare

Until April 2015 the local authority funded development workers from umbrella organisations to support the EYCU to undertake its work. However funding for this support was unfortunately cut and therefore capacity in the Unit has been challenged to the limit.

The Development Officers support childminders and provides information sessions for potential childminders. NPT College Group delivers the CYPOP 5 course. The CYPOP 5 course is a unit taken from the Child Care Learning and Development Level 3 course, and this is the required qualification to become a childminder and the Early Years and Childcare Unit then supports individuals through the registration process with the Care and Social Service Inspectorate for Wales. During last year a total of 158 childminding places were created for children aged 0 – 8.

From April 2016 CSSIW registration will include children from the ages of 0 – 12. This has impacted on the number of children a setting can take if they care for children up to the age of 12. This has resulted in some childcare settings reducing the number of children that they can care for due to floor space.

The Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) was launched in 1999 following a 2-year pilot programme as part of the European Network of Health Promoting Schools. The scheme was developed following recommendations from a Task and Finish Group and the aims on set-up were to ensure that local healthy school schemes were established in health and education partnerships in each local authority area in Wales.

Launched nationally in 2011, the Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme (HSPSS) was developed as an extension of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes.

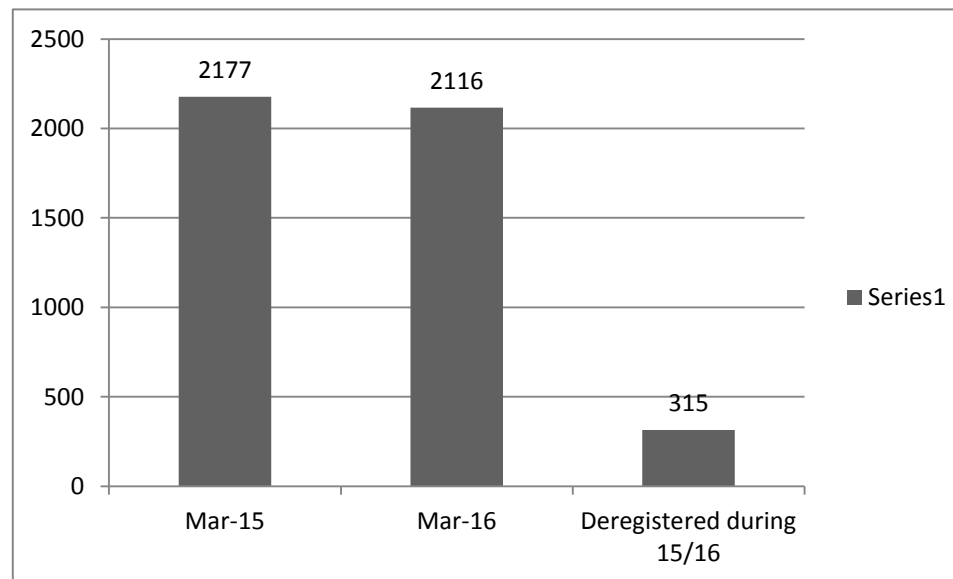
The HSPSS nationally is a combination of all the 22 local county schemes, who work locally and with some autonomy. It has grown up with local and national support from the WNHSS, and over 575 organisations are now involved, with 34 of those organisations (childcare providers) coming from Neath Port Talbot.

O Gam i Gam is now implemented through the Early Years and Childcare Unit. Previous to this the scheme employed 1.5 FTE coordinators to implement the scheme.

Referrals for OGIG are accepted from childcare providers, parents and professional working with families. The maximum support a childcare can have is 2 x 4 hours per week.

How well did we do 2015/2016?

There is a decrease in the number of childcare places however this is due to childcare services deregistering with CSSIW for various reasons. The chart below indicates the number of registered places and deregistered places during 2015/2016.



Number of registered places and deregistered places during 2015/2016

So even though the actual number of new childcare places increased by 254 there is still a decrease in total numbers. There are changes with the requirements for registration with CSSIW and a consultation with childcare providers in the near future will determine the impact of the changes on childcare settings and whether this has resulted in settings deregistering. The fact that there is a 2.8% decrease (61 places) in childcare places because of deregistrations.

20% (34) of childcare settings are engaged with the Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme with 7 settings from Cohort 1 having completed the scheme. 10 new settings will become engaged in 2016-2017

6.1% (34) of all childcare settings engaged with the Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme in Wales are from Neath Port Talbot. 162 children received support through O Gam i Gam, of these children 54% (89) received 1:1 support, 28% (46) received financial

support and 16% (27) received both 1:1 and financial support.

17% (26) registered settings are engaged to provide childcare places through O Gam i Gam, all registered childcare providers could offer places for children with additional needs if necessary.

Story Behind the Data

- Childcare Act 2006 – Statutory duties on all local authorities to ensure sufficient childcare places for those parents/carers who want them – this is where practicably possible and where there is evidence of demand with the aim of ensuring that childcare settings can work towards sustainability with a given period of time.
- Statutory duty to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) every 3 years and to review annually – the next CSA will be undertaken during 2016/2017 and the new duty is to undertake the assessment every 5 years with annual progress reports each year.
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Delivery Plan 2014 – 2017 is currently being implemented.
- Welsh Government policies and plans – Nurturing Children, Supporting Families and Building a Brighter Future – Early Years and Childcare Plan. Child Poverty Action Plan
- Childcare Act 2006 - Children's Information Service re-branded to the Family Information Service in accordance with the information statutory duty.

Appendix 1

Next Key Actions To Do Better		
What?	Who?	By When?
Continue to implement the CSA Delivery Plan	Early Years and Childcare Unit (EYCU)	March 2017
Plan to undertake a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment before end March 2017	Nicola Hire	June 2016
Engage with 10 new settings for the Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme	Nicola Hire	April 2016
Monitor the value of the Training Programme	EYCU	March 2017
Work with existing childcare providers to expand their provision to accommodate parents and carers working unsocial hours	EYCU	September 2016
Improve data collection	EYCU	April 2016
Deliver a service to ensure that grant funding is utilised as agreed with Welsh Government.	Nicola Hire	March 2017