

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board**

26th January 2017

### **Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All Wards

## **CHILDCARE FACILITIES WITHIN SCHOOLS IN NEATH PORT TALBOT**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this Report is to present the current situation with regard to childcare facilities located on school sites. The Report updates Members and seeks authorisation to continue to regularise the position of childcare settings on school sites.

Included within this Report is a list of childcare provisions currently occupying surplus space within schools throughout the County Borough.

### **Executive Summary**

2. This Report seeks to gain authorisation for the development of childcare facilities on school sites and to allocate delegated powers to the Head of Participation to authorise childcare developments on school sites. This is reported to Members on an annual basis.

## **Background**

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare places for those parents and carers who want them. This duty came into effect in April 2008 and forms part of the statutory duties imposed on all local authorities set out by the Childcare Act 2006.

The Early Years and Childcare Unit are currently undertaking a new Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. This assessment will inform the Unit of any unmet demand for childcare and also allow the Unit to plan and prepare for implementing new Welsh Government initiatives such as the thirty hour childcare offer. The 30 hour childcare offer will consist of part time foundation phase education and childcare for all working parents of three and four year olds.

Early indications are that more out of school childcare places will be required so that the Authority can meet demand from working parents when this initiative is further rolled out following the pilot period. It is envisaged that the thirty hour offer will be fully implemented by September 2020.

It is the aim of the Early Years and Childcare Unit to utilise existing childcare services initially but where there is need school buildings will be used to ensure sufficient childcare places for the 30 hour offer.

There are different types of childcare currently located in schools and these include:

**Full Day Care** – facilities that provide childcare for children under eight for a continuous period of four hours or more in any day in premises which are not domestic.

**Out of School Care** – the total care is for more than two hours in any day and for more than five days in a year. It is intended for children who attend school and may include breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday play clubs.

**Sessional Day Care** – facilities that provide day care for children under eight for a session which is less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. These may include playgroups and Welsh medium Cylchoedd Meithrin. Sessional childcare can also include a wraparound facility for children attending part time nursery education who can be cared for in a

childcare setting, either on a school site or in the community but linked to the school, for the remainder of the school day.

Some of the childcare settings located on school sites are funded by the Welsh Government Initiative Flying Start, whilst some others are funded through the Welsh Government's Out of School Childcare Grant.

Flying Start is targeted at 0-3 year olds in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. It aims to create positive outcomes in the medium and long term. It is a prescriptive programme, based on international evidence of what works. The Council has been informed by Welsh Government that it has been allocated indicative funding for Flying Start until March 2017.

What it means in practice:

- Free quality part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds
- An enhanced Health Visiting service
- Access to Parenting Programmes
- Access to Language and Play sessions.

These are universally available to all children aged 0-3 and their families in the areas in which it operates.

Due to various reasons, it has become more viable to develop childcare facilities in school with surplus capacity. This helps maximise the use of Local Authority buildings as well as maximising use of the educational portfolio. This has many benefits for both the school and the children and families who use the childcare facility. Having onsite childcare facilities in schools ensures the continuity for young children and their families, and the schools get to know the children and families earlier which means better planning for better results.

The Out of School Childcare Grant is utilised to meet any unmet demand identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment including holiday clubs, after school clubs and also raising the profile of the Family Information Service.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications for the Council in relation to this report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

3. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for the purpose of this report.

## **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce impacts or implications for the Council in relation to this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

There are no legal impacts or implications for the Council in relation to this report.

## **Risk Management**

4. This Report seeks to minimise the risk to the Council by continuing to support Governing Bodies of Schools and also supporting the Local Authority in meeting the statutory duties placed on it in the Childcare Act 2006.

## **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

5. 1. It is recommended that Members agree in principle to the authorising of the development of childcare facilities on school sites with the terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property and Regeneration;

2. For the Head of Participation to be granted delegated authority to develop childcare facilities on school sites;
3. That reports are submitted to Members on an annual basis.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

6. To support the Governing Bodies of Schools in supporting the request for childcare facilities to be developed on school sites. Thus also supporting the Local Authority in meeting the statutory duties placed on it in the Childcare Act 2006. This will in turn support the Child Poverty agenda in enabling parents the time to enter training or employment opportunities, or to access employment or training within the childcare sector.

### **Implementation of Decision**

7. That the decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

### **Appendices**

8. Childcare Facilities in Schools Updated List January 2017

### **Officer Contact**

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