

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board**

15 February 2018

### **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 seeks to update Members and seeks authorisation to continue to regularise the position of childcare settings on school sites.

Included with this Report, as Appendix A, 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.

In line with the duty, the Early Years and Childcare Unit published its most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in March 2017. The assessment identifies areas of unmet demand for childcare and also will allow for the planning and preparation for the implementation of new Welsh Government initiatives, such as the 30 hour childcare offer.

The 30 hour childcare offer will consist of part time foundation phase education and childcare for all working parents of 3 and 4 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 30 hour offer will be fully implemented across Wales by September 2020.

Existing childcare provision will be utilised for this but where the need is identified school buildings may need to 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 receive Welsh Government funding, some through Flying Start and others through the Out of School Childcare Grant.

Developing childcare facilities in school with surplus capacity can help 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 schools can develop relationships with children and families earlier which means better planning for better results.

### **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. 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.

To grant delegated authority to the Head of Participation to authorise childcare developments on school sites and to report 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. The decision is proposed for the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

8. List of Childcare in Schools

## **Officer Contact**

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