

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board

17th January 2019

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.

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.

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.

Developments

Our Welsh in Education Strategy 2017-2020 – Implementation Plan, sets out an objective of having more seven years old children being taught through the medium of Welsh in Neath Port Talbot. With the success of three Welsh medium capital grant schemes for Pontardawe, Tyle'r Ynn and Cwmllynfell Welsh medium primary schools, childcare can now be developed or extended within the schools, enabling more children to access Welsh Medium childcare and transition into Welsh Medium education.

Flying Start capital funding has also been secured to develop a Welsh Medium Childcare setting at Rhos Afan/Tir Morfa. This childcare will transition into Rhos Afan, and will relocate to the school building in the future when further capital is awarded.

Some childcare settings located on school sites receive Welsh Government funding, some through Flying Start and others through the Out of School Childcare Grant.

In September 2018, Neath Port Talbot began delivery of the Childcare Offer Wales, initially in 14 pilots but extending into all areas from end January 2019. The childcare offer consists of part time foundation phase education and funded childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, up to 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year. Early indications are that more out of school childcare places will be required so that the Authority can meet demand from working parents. Existing childcare provision will be developed to provide this wherever possible but, where the need is identified, school buildings may need to be used to ensure sufficiency of childcare places for the offer.

A capital grant application has been made to Welsh Government for £5,105,000. The primary focus of the capital grant programme is to facilitate and support the co-location of Foundation Phase and childcare provision wherever possible. The application makes proposals for nine projects to improve childcare settings, some of which will be based within a school site or proposed relocating a childcare setting to a school site.

A small grant fund, equalling £510,000, is also proposed for small projects up to £10,000 each.

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 allocate delegated powers 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 will be implemented after the 3 day call in period.

Appendices

8. List of Childcare in Schools

Officer Contact

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