



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills & Culture Cabinet Board

17 February, 2022

Report of the Head of Early Years, Inclusion & Partnership – Hayley Lervy

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Childcare Facilities within Schools in Neath Port Talbot

Purpose of the Report:

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, including seeking Members' approval for a change in delegated decision making, involving the continuing establishment of childcare in school and education sites, following the change in Education structure and area of responsibility for Early Years.

Included with this Report, as Appendix A, is a list of childcare provisions currently within schools or school grounds throughout Neath Port Talbot.

Executive Summary:

This Report seeks to gain authorisation for the ongoing and continuing development of childcare facilities on school sites and to allocate delegated powers to the Head of Early Years, Inclusion and Partnerships to authorise childcare developments on school sites. This is reported to Members on an annual basis.

Background:

Delegated powers around childcare in schools prior to the recent Head of Service restructure fell under Chris Millis, Head of Transformation.

Following the responsibility for Early Years being realigned under the recently appointed Head of Early Years, Inclusion and Partnership, Members are asked to consider that decision making regarding childcare in schools now move to Head of Early Years, Inclusion and Partnership, Hayley Lervy.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare places for parents and carers that need it. 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 Flying Start, Early Years and Childcare Team are currently updating their Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, last published in March 2017. The assessment aims to identify areas of unmet demand for childcare and also will allow for the planning and preparation in line with WG

Childcare is an integral part of our community within Neath Port Talbot, enabling children to thrive and develop to their full potential, supporting readiness for school, and enabling parents to access work, education and training.

Through funded programmes, such as Flying Start, Childcare Offer for Wales, and Childcare and Play funding from the Welsh

Government, The Flying Start, Early Years and Childcare Team endeavour to continue to draw down much needed capital and revenue funding from Welsh Government, and create sustainable learning communities for children right from the start, by providing as much childcare on school sites as possible. This not only enables a smooth transition for children into education from pre-school, but builds on the trusted school reputation with parents, develops early connections and partnerships between schools and families, and brings capital investment to our education estate. Working in tandem with our WESP targets, we strive to increase the number of children accessing Welsh education by placing much needed pre-school childcare within our Welsh schools as possible.

Developments

Flying Start, Early Years and Childcare Team have been active in collectively setting ambitious targets as part of our WESP, within Objective One. With childcare in schools at the heart, we have started a journey to create a growing culture for Welsh Language in early childhood right from the start within our Welsh Medium schools. As part joint grant applications with our SSIP team, Welsh Medium (WM) Education Grant for WM childcare developments include:

- YGG Tyle'r Ynn – New Cylch Teulu Tyle'r (32 place WM childcare due to open in March 2022) Plus community room where Ti a Fi and parenting will run for the community bilingually.
- YGG Cwmllynfell – New Cylch Cwmllynfell (24 place WM childcare due to open in February 2022)
- YGG Pontardawe – Cylch Pontardawe (additional 10+ places created within existing WM childcare by increasing size of childcare space) Due to complete before March 2022

Circa £5m was awarded to NPTCBC for 2019 - 2023 for Capital builds to address childcare gaps in line with Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Childcare Offer for Wales. This has funded:

- Wauncerich Primary School Childcare building (Complete)
- Rhos Primary School Childcare building (completion Feb 2022)
- New Abbey Primary Childcare Setting (completion May 2022)
- Blaendulais Welsh/Bilingual Childcare Setting (Completion March 2023)
- *Cwmavon Childcare Setting - Completion March 2023
- *Castell Nedd Welsh Childcare Setting (24 places) – within Neath Central Development, Completion May 2022.

**due to lack of space on school sites, the following sites have been selected with access and proximity to schools in mind.*

Flying Start capital funding was secured to develop a Welsh Medium Childcare setting at Rhos Afan/Tir Morfa site, this was complete in 2019. The childcare provision registering 20 children per session, will transition into Rhos Afan, and will relocate to the school building in the future when further capital is awarded.

Annual capital funding is secured by the Early Years and Flying Start Manager to maintain school based childcare settings within Flying Start areas, and improve facilities. More details can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Continuity of Service

In order to ensure continuity of the development of childcare within Neath Port Talbot, it is recommended that Members approve. Members will be kept up to date within current scheduled reporting, regarding the

Financial Impacts:

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

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act

2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:

The screening is in relation to the change in shows no negative impact, no further IIA or EIA is required.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

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 Impacts:

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

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

No impact

Counter Terrorism Impacts:

No impact

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

No Impact

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the IIA screening, 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. It is recommended that Members allocate delegated powers to the Head of Early Years, Inclusion and Partnerships to authorise childcare developments on school sites and to report to Members on an annual basis

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that continuity of the development of childcare in Neath Port Talbot, in line with WG policies and plans. Allowing officers to strive to close the childcare sufficiency gaps identified by our CSA. 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:

The decision will be implemented after the 3 day call in period.

List of Background Papers:

1. Education, Skills & Culture Cabinet Report, 17th January, 2019.
<http://modgov.npt.gov.uk/documents/g8121/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Jan->

[2019%2014.00%20Education%20Skills%20and%20Culture%20Cabinet%20Board.pdf?T=10](#)

2. First Stage Screening IIA – Childcare in Schools

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