



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

28th July 2022

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Childcare in Schools/Education Buildings: Temporary changes to current rent arrangements

Purpose of the Report:

Agreement is sought to pilot a change of the set rent charges for childcare within school and education buildings. Any new childcare agreements including leases and heads of terms will be set for a one year period only, while the pilot change is tested for viability and suitability. This will aim to make childcare space opportunities in schools and education buildings more accessible to new external private childcare providers.

All childcare providers will be expected to continue to cover any service charges as appropriate.

During the pilot, we wish to:

- Implement the pilot rent charge for any new after school club providers to reflect the school need, and shorter session time.

- Remove the requirement for rent from Welsh and Bilingual childcare providers to support our WESP, and attract these provisions to apply for Expression of Interests and Tenders to run within our schools/education buildings.

Our current process for non-Flying Start childcare provision, is suitable for larger full daycare childcare providers, where rent is affordable. Flying Start settings currently cover service charges only, as similarly, the providers within schools are providing a service much needed by NPTCBC to fulfil its obligations to Flying Start families. The suggested pilot rent payment structure will support the response to the need of both NPTCBC and the community, and support the sustainability of Welsh provision in line with our WESP and our Childcare Sufficiency Audit for after school club provision development.

The impact of the changes will:

- Make afterschool clubs more sustainable in schools, where schools are unable to provide the service themselves.
- Sustain Welsh language childcare provision within schools, increasing the amount of children transitioning into Welsh medium education.
- Attract more interest in running bilingual and Welsh provision within school and education buildings.

The below charging framework is proposed:

Childcare Provision Type	Service Charges	Base Rent	Additional Rent	Agreement Term
Flying Start	100%	N/A	N/A	5 years
Welsh/Bilingual	100%	N/A	N/A	1 years
Full Daycare	100%	£25/wk	£1/reg child/wk	5 years
Afterschool Club	100%	£1/wk	£1/reg child/wk	1 years

Executive Summary:

Members are asked to approve a pilot of a new fair and clear rent charge framework for childcare in schools that supports the ongoing and continuing development of childcare facilities on school sites. Any new agreements will be for a one year period only, during the pilot phase.

Any update will be reported to Members on an annual basis.

Background:

Delegated powers around childcare in schools falls under the responsibility of 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 have updated their Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which is due for public consultation from July 1st 2022, 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.

Continuity of Service

In order to ensure continuity of the development of childcare within Neath Port Talbot, it is recommended that Members approve the above suggested pilot framework of cost charged to any new childcare providers developed within schools, to make it appealing for childcare to be school-based.

Members will be kept up to date within current scheduled reporting.

Financial Impacts:

It is proposed that the charges for existing leases will remain the same until such time that they are renewed due to a new provider. At this time, the new charging framework will come into place. As new provisions open the proposed charging framework will be implemented which will generate minimum rental income (Approx £1,000 base rent per annum for full day care and £39 per year for afterschool clubs).

As any new provisions are not yet confirmed, a financial figure cannot be estimated at this time, but this income will be **additional** to existing income budgets.

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:

Any new childcare services within school and education buildings are anticipated to have a positive impact for children with additional learning needs (ALN) and/or a disability.

Positive impacts are also anticipated with opportunities to use and promote the Welsh language with additional Welsh language or bilingual childcare being made available.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

This pilot may include childcare opportunities in the valleys communities.

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:

The proposed is a pilot, so risk is minimal.

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. The reduction of rent proposals support the sustainability of childcare within school and education buildings, and will reduce the need for such childcare to seek grant funding support from Early Years Sustainability pots to support rent payments. Making opportunities for childcare within schools and education buildings more financially accessible to the childcare sector, supports our vision of strong transition processes for children from pre-school childcare into foundation learning. Furthermore, the co-location of

services for children and young people supports ease of access to services for families.

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:

It is recommended that Members agree in principle to the pilot changes to charges for childcare providers in schools, as set out in detail above.

A report on childcare developments on school sites will continue to be reported 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 Childcare Sufficiency Audit.

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.

The impact of the pilot changes will:

- Make afterschool clubs more sustainable in schools, where schools are unable to provide the service themselves.
- Sustain Welsh language childcare provision within schools, increasing the amount of children transitioning into Welsh medium education.
- Attract more interest in running bilingual and Welsh provision within school and education buildings.

Implementation of Decision:

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

List of Background Papers:

- Education, Skills & Culture Cabinet Report, 18th Feb, 2022?
- First Stage Screening IIA – Changes to Rent for Childcare in Schools

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