



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Cabinet**

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Margam

Port Talbot

#### **Flying Start Phase One Expansion Plan**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

Approval is sought for the attached Flying Start Phase One Expansion Plan. Welsh Government require Neath Port Talbot Council to approve the plan, along with Swansea Bay University Health Board, in order for phase one to begin in September 2022.

#### **Executive Summary:**

As per the Flying Start Expansion Guidance, requiring expansion of the programme into NEW areas of the local authority, the Flying Start phase one expansion plan aims to offer the whole Flying Start programme of support for 0-4 year olds, in the 3 additional Lower Super Output Areas of Margam 1, Gwaun Cae Gurwen 2 and Port Talbot 3, along with an increase in capacity for the Flying Start Outreach programme, which will see an additional 32 children outside

of Flying Start areas benefiting from the Flying Start funded services. The additional areas have been identified using the robust data provided by Welsh Government. Due to the very short time scale to implement phase one of the expansion, the plan rational has had to reflect what is realistically possible from September 2022, with areas needing significant development or capital investment priorities for future phases, when capital investment will also be available to support the wider expansion roll out. A target of 127 additional children supported by the Flying Start programme within these new areas has been set.

**Background:**

Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years of age who live in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. Flying Start aims to make a decisive difference to the life chances of children by mitigating the impact of poverty, which is linked to poor life outcomes in early childhood, including health outcomes.

The Programme comprises of four entitlements which in NPT provide:

- funded quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds; (30 high quality childcare settings, with high quality staff, monitored via service level agreements)
- an intensive health visiting service(21 Health Visitors, 11 Community Nursery Nurses's, 2 x management, 1 x Clinical Nurse Specialist for Safeguarding, providing Health Child Wales Programme plus enhanced visits, support and tailored groups)
- access to parenting support (team of 12 parenting staff supporting parents with structured parenting course, drop ins, 1:1 support, early years groups, joint working with health board staff for a holistic support package)
- support for speech, language and communication development (4 x Speech and Language Therapists, 2 Speech and Language Therapy Assistants providing Wellcomm Screening,

targeted support, adult-child interaction therapy/Hanen, multidisciplinary team meetings to support transition, childcare support)

Additionally in NPT, we are fortunate to have;

- NPT wide specialist midwifery support for expectant mothers under 22 (2 Midwives 1 Community Nursery Nurse supporting parenting, breastfeeding, infant feeding support, intensive antenatal visits)
- Early Years Educational Psychology contribution, enabling the early years model of the service to run NPT wide

Through a multidisciplinary team approach, which identifies all of the needs of the child and their family and provides prudent and proportionate interventions, Flying Start aims to ensure that:

- children are healthy and thriving;
- families are capable and coping; and
- Flying Start children are reaching potential.

The focus of Flying Start is upon the early identification of any needs and the timely application of interventions. Many of the children we work with have experienced ACE's

<b>Funding allocation for Phase One</b>	£177,800.00
<b>Number of additional beneficiaries (anticipated) in Phase One</b>	127
<b>Population size – under 4-year olds</b>	<b>7223 (mid 2020 estimate)</b>
<b>Existing CAP</b>	<b>1845</b>
<b>New CAP (post-expansion)</b>	<b>1972</b>

Subject to NPTCBC formal approval, and the approval of the Chief Operational Officer for Swansea Bay University Health Board, we hope to gain approval to expand into 3 new LSOA's with all elements of the Flying Start (FS) programme to be made available from September, to the newly eligible families within these areas. There will be some transitional arrangements phased in for health visiting from September which are clearly detailed within this plan. Using the dataset provided by Welsh Government, ranking Lower Super Output Areas's by the level deprivation of children aged 0-4, using Department for Work and Pensions and Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation data, NPT has clearly identified 3 new LSOA's with high need, that are also equipped with childcare availability to provide the full Flying Start offer from September.

- Margam 1 – estimated 46 children aged 0-4
- Port Talbot 3 - estimated 42 children aged 0-4
- Gwaun Cae Gurwen 2 - estimated 62 children aged 0-4

More detailed work is currently underway to identify the actual number of families with children aged 0-4 within the identified areas from generic HV caseloads.

Other data around LA referrals and ALN information was looked at to support the decision for the proposed area. The data suggests that these 3 areas are suitable and will respond to need from the areas.

Some areas not currently within Flying Start eligibility, that appear on the Welsh Government data set as more deprived than the proposed new Lower Super Output Areas, are either already within plans to increase the NPT current Flying Start coverage footprint, to enable us to raise up to our target CAP 1845, or have limitations in terms of lack of current accessible childcare provision. This includes areas such as Seven Sisters and Bryn and Cwmavon, who are awaiting Childcare Offer capital new builds that will not be complete until 2024. Through discussions with colleagues and partners, it was felt that expanding into new areas without accessible funded childcare during phase one

would be difficult. Outreach guidance is being looked at to assist targeted support via the referral route for families in these communities as “communities of interest”, so that those who need the support, are still able to access the services they need, while those communities wait for expansion to reach their areas.

### **Continuity of Service**

Revenue budget for Flying Start 22/23	
Flying Start core budget	£4,033,463
Expansion Admin	£70,518
Childcare rate increase	£178,310
Expansion indicative(to be awarded in Sept)	£178,327

Flying Start is 100% funded by WG, with a current grant term until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Its continuity therefore relies upon Welsh Government seeing it continuing as one of its Flagship programmes. As much as this holds some risk, the longevity of the programme is a direct result of its continuing success in improving the lives of children under 4 and their families, in the most deprived areas since 2007. The commitment to expand the childcare element of Flying Start to all 2 years olds in Wales within the next 2 years is reassuring sign of a longer term commitment

### **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 Flying Start expansion programme provides increased access, via outreach support where necessary, to additional areas of NPT. These areas have been selected based on robust data from WG as well as supporting data from the childcare sufficiency audit 2022.

The programme will enable children, parents and expectant mothers under 22 years of age (a specific element of the programme) to access and benefit from services to improve life chances and mitigating the impact of poverty.

Specific services provided under the programme 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:**

The Flying Start expansion programme will include a range of services and build on the childcare opportunities in the Amman Valley.

**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:****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 approve the Flying Start Phase One Expansion Plan, allowing the plan to be put forward for approval by the Chief Operational Officer for Swansea Bay University Health Board.

If approval is granted, timescales to begin expansion into 3 new areas with all elements of the Flying Start programme from September are achievable.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

To ensure a feasible expansion is possible within the timescales set for phase one by Welsh Government.

To begin the much needed expansion of Flying Start services to other areas of need within the local authority.

To comply with Welsh Government Expansion Guidance.

**Implementation of Decision:**

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

**List of Background Papers:****Flying Start Expansion Plan Draft****Officer Contact:**

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