

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2017



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Form

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Date of Completion: 31st March 2017

Principal Statement

Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for the needs of working parents/carers in their area for children up to 1 September after they turn 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 in the case of children with a disability. A core element of this duty in Wales is to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every five years which assesses the supply of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority and identifies any gaps in provision. Therefore, Torfaen County Borough Council is responsible to shape and support the development of childcare provision in the local area to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community.

Torfaen County Borough Council recognises the importance of conducting a full CSA in order to ensure that parents are able to access childcare locally, that meets their needs, and enables them to make a real choice about work.

This report (published April 2017) forms part of Torfaen County Borough Councils fourth full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).

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1. Introduction/ Context

This section describes the methodology used to undertake and approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan. It identifies the key challenges in undertaking the Assessment and describes the mechanism the Local Authority proposes to use to take forward the identified actions for the action plan.

This report uses a range of data collected as part of the assessment process to identify gaps in the childcare market in Torfaen County Borough.

Section 26 of The Childcare Act requires Local Authorities in Wales to prepare assessments of the sufficiency of childcare in their area and working towards securing sufficient provision and establish plans to address any gaps identified. Local authorities are required to undertake a full assessment of the childcare provision in their area by March 31st 2017 and five yearly thereafter. Annual Progress Reports will be submitted to Welsh Government to review ongoing progress.

This report has been produced in line with Welsh Governments “Childcare Act Guidance” revised August 2016. This will determine whether the provision of childcare is sufficient within the local authority and must address the needs of parents in their area for:

- the provision of childcare in respect of which the child care element of working tax credit or universal credit is payable;
- the provision of childcare in respect of which employer supported childcare or tax free childcare is payable;
- the provision of childcare for children who have special educational needs or require specialist care due to disability;
- the provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language
- the provision of childcare which enables them to access their foundation phase early education entitlement
- the provision of childcare which enables them to access their entitlement for free childcare places

Torfaen County Borough Council will utilise evidence produced from the CSA as well as using other Local Authority plans and programmes including Flying Start, Early Years Education, Families First, the Welsh Education Strategic Plans, the Assessment of Local Well Being Needs Assessment and the development of the new Welsh Government initiative of the free childcare offer for three and four year olds.

Analysis of current demand, supply and potential barriers to families taking up childcare, will contribute to the current/future development and sustainability of childcare provision in Torfaen. As a result of this analysis a detailed Childcare Action Plan has been proposed which will guide the work of the Local Authority’s Early Years/Childcare Team to manage the local childcare market

in partnership with other identified Local Authority departments and external partner organisations including the private and voluntary sectors.

A number of challenges incurred during the collation and reporting of the CSA, which impacted on the overall delivery and validity of the statistical evidence.

During 2016 a number of strategic changes were implemented within the Early Years Team, which resulted in a decrease of workforce amongst the Family Information Service when undertaking the CSA, on behalf of Torfaen County Borough Council. Thus reducing the capacity to consult with additional stakeholders and conduct further focus groups to identify barriers in childcare. Stakeholder groups identified by Welsh Government further proved to be unattainable, despite extensive measures to obtain their views on childcare.

During the delivery of the Parent / Carer Survey a number of consultations both from Welsh Government and within the Local Authority were active and sought views from families in Torfaen. The response rate for the Parent /Carer survey was significantly lower than previous CSA's and therefore the outcomes will be determined as statistically insignificant based on current population figures.

In addition to this the analysis of supply for childcare in Torfaen was based on data submitted from Care and Social Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) in agreement with Welsh Government. The data was complex and proved difficult to decipher into fields required by Welsh Government. Furthermore the data was incomplete and therefore does not account for all childcare settings within Torfaen. Further analysis will need to be undertaken by Torfaen Family Information Service to validate any childcare discrepancies identified within the Gaps Analysis.

Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team have conducted and produced the CSA for Torfaen County Borough Council.

2. Partnership Working and Consultation

Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team consulted with a number of stakeholders where appropriate in accordance of schedule 2 of the Statutory Guidance submitted by Welsh Government.

The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016, Regulations 6 and 7 prescribe the persons who local authorities could consider consulting with and the persons they must consult in preparing the assessment, including persons representing those with an interest in childcare.

A wide range of data has been used to inform this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, including:

- **Demographic and socio-economic profile for Torfaen:** a range of factors may affect the demand and ability to pay for childcare. This analysis in Section 4 examines projected population figures for the Local Authority area and the main trends and factors likely to affect those figures. This may provide an initial picture of what some of the gaps in childcare may be in Torfaen County Borough. Data was submitted from Public Services Support Unit (PSSU) and the analysis was conducted and delivered by Torfaen Family Information Service.
- **Profile of the supply of childcare:** Historically previous CSA's conducted by Torfaen County Borough Council have analysed information submitted by Torfaen Family Information Service. The supply of childcare was analysed by information submitted from Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). Torfaen Family Information Service were sent the Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) data during late October and was analysed and populated into annexes as per Welsh Government guidance. During November an updated SASS was submitted to Torfaen Family Information Service following discrepancies being identified by a number of other Local Authorities. The data within the SASS report was based on information submitted by childcare providers during Summer 2016. The response rate for completion was less than 90% and Torfaen County Borough Council experienced multiple difficulties in analysing the supply of childcare based on the SASS data. It was considered that some childcare providers had misinterpreted questions asked within the SASS, therefore information submitted varies considerably than that held within the Family Information Service. Previous CSA analysis examined childcare provision by ward area in Torfaen County Borough Council. Due to the extensive volume of data needed to populate multiple areas from the SASS data, it was agreed to examine childcare by the 3 main settlement areas of Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran.

- **Parent/carer demand survey:** a questionnaire created by Welsh Government was circulated to parents/carers in Torfaen County Borough to find out about their views and experiences of childcare. The questionnaire included (amongst others) questions on childcare that they use, reasons for not using childcare, improvements required, childcare costs, and financial support. A total of 274 responses were received. The sample size was such that the analysis could not look at statistically significant differences between different groups of parents/carers in their use of, and views on, childcare in Torfaen County Borough. Torfaen Family Information Service conducted the fieldwork and were supported by the Public Service Support Unit (PSSU) for Torfaen County Borough Council.
- **Focus groups with parents/carers:** A total of four focus groups took place between November 2016 and February 2017, involving 19 parents/carers. These were targeted at specific groups of parent/carers and collected the views of:
 - Lone parents/parents seeking work and training
 - People with an interest in childcare
 - Working parents
 - ESOL families

These focus groups were conducted, analysed and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team.

- **Consultation with children and young people:** a total of 98 children and young people aged between 5 and 12 years old were consulted during eleven consultation events held in a variety of open access play clubs. These examined use of childcare, reasons for use, what was liked about childcare, improvement suggestions and childcare accessed during school holidays. This research was conducted by Torfaen Play Service and analysed by Torfaen Family Information Service. A further 60 children aged between 1-10 years were consulted during four consultation events held within registered childcare provisions. This research was conducted by the Participation and Research Officer for PSSU and analysed by Torfaen Family Information Service.
- **Consultation with employers:** A survey was conducted with employers about childcare that covered issues in relation to recruitment/retention and support for employees were conducted with employers in Torfaen County Borough. A total of 8 employers responded to the survey. This research and report was delivered by Torfaen Family Information Service.
- **Consultation with childcare providers:** A questionnaire was circulated to 140 childcare providers in Torfaen County Borough to find out their views on the local childcare market, improvements that could be made to meet the needs of specific groups,

future plans and support required. 63 Childcare providers responded. This research and report was delivered by the Childcare Team.

- **Consultation with key stakeholders:** A number of umbrella organisations were consulted about their views on the local childcare market and improvements that could be made to meet the needs of specific groups. Representatives who participated in the consultation included, Torfaen Play Service, Wales Pre-school Playgroup Association (WPPA), Pacey, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC), National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and Mudiad Meithrin (MM).
- **Consultation with Jobcentre Plus:** Jobcentre Plus were sent a series of questions outlined in the consultation with key stakeholders requesting their views about childcare and to identify gaps between specific target groups as outlined in Schedule 2 of Welsh Government Guidance. Attempts to retrieve parent / carers views about childcare were also made through the Welsh Government Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE) project.
- **Safeguarding Children Board:** Torfaen County Borough Council made every effort to consult with The Local Safeguarding Children's Board, however the board responded that it was unable to participate in the consultation due to a lack of local knowledge about childcare within Torfaen. The board consists of regional multi agency groups of senior officers who set the strategic direction for safeguarding across the region and the Business unit would not have any evidence to support comments about this area of work.

A full summary of the consultations outlined above were analysed and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team. These are detailed in Section 14.

3. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Local Well Being Needs Assessment

Torfaen Family Information Service notified the Local Well Being Needs Assessment during the collation and reporting of the 2017 CSA. However due to the 2017 CSA being conducted during the delivery of the Well Being Assessment, the following statement was submitted based on figures identified in 2014.

Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for the needs of working parents/carers in their area for children up to 1 September after they turn 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 in the case of children with a disability. The most recent childcare sufficiency assessment was undertaken in 2014. It included a gap analysis based on information provided by respondents to the parent / carer survey which identified the following:

- The majority of families in Torfaen use childcare (82.5% of those that responded to the questionnaire and based in 953 valid responses).
- Affordability is the greatest barrier to accessing childcare.
- Opening times and flexibility of childcare are barriers to accessing childcare for some families.
- Dissatisfaction with childcare among parents/carers who use childcare is greater in school holidays than in term time.
- Gaps in the type of childcare provision available are affecting families in Torfaen, but they are not considered to be as important as affordability.
- Gaps in provision differ according to age and time of year. It suggests there may be gaps in childcare during school holidays and for older children.

4. Population

Demographic Data for Torfaen County Borough Council was submitted from Public Services Support Unit and analysed and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

For the purpose of this report data from Mid 2014 Population estimates for Torfaen will be used, and data is presented based on the three main settlement areas for Torfaen (Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran).

In 2014, Torfaen County Borough Council mid-year population estimates show that there is a total population of 91, 609. Of this, the mid-year estimates reveal that there are 19,361 children aged 0 to 17 in Torfaen. This is a decrease of 244 children since the last full assessment in 2014 (based on 2012 ONS mid-year estimates).Figure 1 below shows the total population figures as per geographical area

Figure 1. Mid-2014 Population projections Welsh Government

Area	Population figures	No. of children aged 0-17 years
Blaeanavon	6,057	1,328
Pontypool	37,072	7,797
Cwmbran	48,480	10,236
Total	91,609	19,361

It is clear from the population figures that the majority of Torfaen residents are residing within the Cwmbran area, and the number of children aged 0-17 years is greater in Cwmbran. Figure 2 below further shows the age of children per geographical area

Figure 2. Figure 1. Mid-2014 Population projections Welsh Government

Area	12 months and under	1 years old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6 years old	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old	12 years old	13 years old	14 years old	15 years old	16 years old	17 years old
Blaeanavon	64	80	68	73	75	79	90	77	92	79	63	58	74	56	67	65	78	90
Pontypool	443	433	458	477	462	483	414	441	441	463	350	387	377	387	397	426	452	506
Cwmbran	549	556	558	579	597	545	582	547	599	540	511	504	521	561	577	601	639	670
Total	1056	1069	1084	1129	1134	1107	1086	1065	1132	1082	924	949	972	1004	1041	1092	1169	1266

The 2014 mid years estimates suggest that, of those;

- 3209 are aged 2 and under (decrease of 67 children since the last full assessment);
- 2263 are aged 3 and 4 years (increase of 116 children since the last full assessment);
- 1107 are aged 5 years (increase of 40 children since the last full assessment);
- 2151 are aged 6 and 7 years (decrease of 71 children since the last full assessment);
- 3138 are aged 8, 9 and 10 years (increase of 297 children since the last full assessment);
- 3996 are aged 11, 12, 13 and 14 years (decrease of 334 children since the last full assessment);
- 3527 are aged 15, 16 and 17 years (decrease of 195 children since the last full assessment).

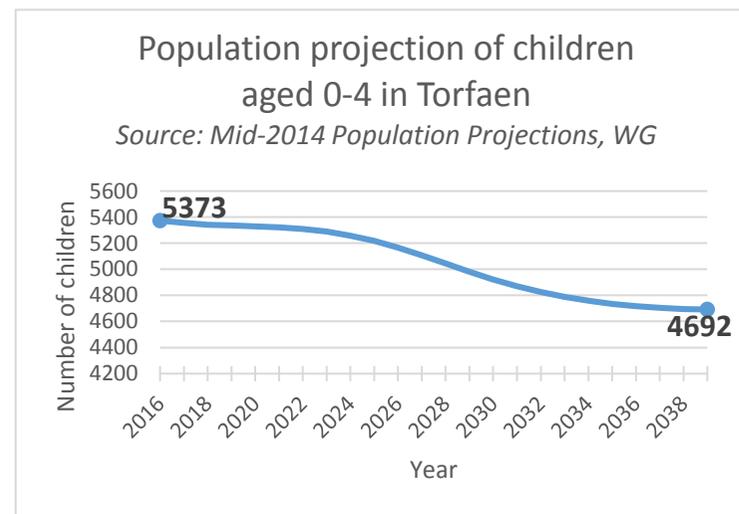
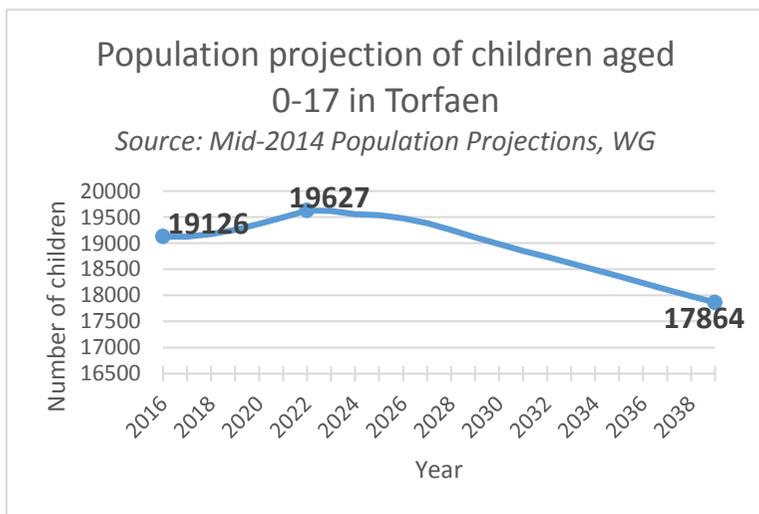
This suggests that there is now a decrease in the number of children aged two years and under against a larger increase in the number of 3-4 year olds and a smaller increase in those children aged 5 years. These are all predominantly in the Cwmbran area. A large increase in children aged 6,7 8, 9 and 10 years is offset by greater decreases in children and young people aged 11 to 17 years, according to the 2014 mid-year estimates.

Projected population changes in the child and young people population are produced by Torfaen County Borough Council using live birth data. Figure 3 shows the estimated population projection from 2016 to 2039 for children aged 0 – 17 years. Please note this is not per geographical area

Figure 3. Mid-2014 Population projections Welsh Government

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Age 0	1053	1052	1051	1050	1048	1044	1039	1031	1020	1007	993	980	968	957	948	941	935	930	927	924	923	922	922	922
Age 1	1061	1058	1057	1057	1056	1053	1049	1045	1037	1026	1013	999	986	974	963	954	947	941	936	933	930	929	928	928
Age 2	1073	1073	1071	1070	1069	1069	1066	1062	1057	1049	1038	1025	1012	999	986	975	966	959	954	949	945	943	941	941
Age 3	1086	1076	1076	1074	1073	1073	1072	1070	1065	1061	1053	1042	1029	1015	1002	990	979	970	963	957	952	949	946	945
Age 4	1100	1096	1086	1086	1084	1083	1082	1082	1079	1075	1070	1062	1051	1038	1024	1011	999	988	979	972	967	962	958	956
Age 5	1143	1106	1101	1090	1090	1088	1087	1087	1086	1084	1080	1075	1067	1056	1043	1029	1016	1004	993	984	977	971	967	963
Age 6	1139	1144	1108	1102	1092	1091	1089	1089	1089	1088	1085	1081	1077	1069	1057	1044	1031	1018	1006	995	986	979	973	968
Age 7	1111	1141	1146	1111	1105	1093	1093	1091	1091	1091	1090	1087	1083	1079	1071	1059	1046	1033	1020	1008	997	988	981	975
Age 8	1087	1108	1138	1143	1109	1102	1091	1090	1089	1088	1088	1087	1085	1081	1076	1068	1057	1044	1030	1017	1005	994	985	978
Age 9	1063	1087	1107	1137	1143	1109	1102	1091	1090	1088	1088	1088	1087	1084	1080	1075	1067	1056	1043	1030	1017	1005	994	985
Age 10	1127	1061	1085	1105	1134	1140	1107	1100	1088	1087	1085	1085	1085	1084	1082	1078	1073	1065	1054	1041	1027	1014	1003	992
Age 11	1080	1128	1064	1088	1108	1136	1142	1111	1103	1090	1089	1088	1088	1088	1087	1084	1080	1076	1068	1056	1044	1030	1017	1005
Age 12	933	1082	1130	1067	1092	1111	1139	1145	1114	1106	1093	1092	1091	1091	1091	1090	1088	1083	1079	1071	1060	1047	1033	1020
Age 13	953	935	1081	1130	1068	1093	1111	1139	1146	1115	1106	1094	1092	1092	1092	1091	1091	1088	1084	1079	1071	1060	1047	1034
Age 14	972	954	936	1080	1128	1068	1093	1111	1138	1145	1115	1106	1094	1092	1091	1091	1091	1090	1088	1083	1079	1071	1059	1047
Age 15	1002	970	951	933	1075	1122	1063	1087	1106	1134	1140	1111	1102	1089	1088	1087	1087	1087	1086	1083	1079	1074	1067	1056
Age 16	1045	1008	975	957	940	1079	1125	1067	1093	1112	1138	1145	1117	1107	1094	1092	1092	1092	1091	1089	1084	1080	1072	1072
Age 17	1099	1046	1008	975	957	940	1075	1121	1067	1093	1110	1136	1143	1117	1107	1093	1091	1091	1091	1090	1088	1084	1079	1079
Age 0-17	19126	19123	19171	19256	19370	19494	19627	19618	19558	19538	19476	19384	19256	19110	18981	18855	18737	18616	18492	18365	18237	18110	17985	17864
Age 0-4	5373	5355	5341	5337	5330	5321	5309	5289	5259	5217	5167	5108	5045	4982	4923	4871	4826	4789	4759	4735	4717	4704	4696	4692

From Population Projections it can be considered that the total population of 0 -17 year olds will steadily increase during 2016 – 2022 and the decline over a series of years. This is also common for the 0 - 4 year old population projections as shown in the below figures.



Live Birth Rates

Live Birth Data for 2017 was unavailable at the time of publishing therefore the following information is based on trends within live birth data submitted from PSSU from 2006 - 2014 on three year rolling averages.

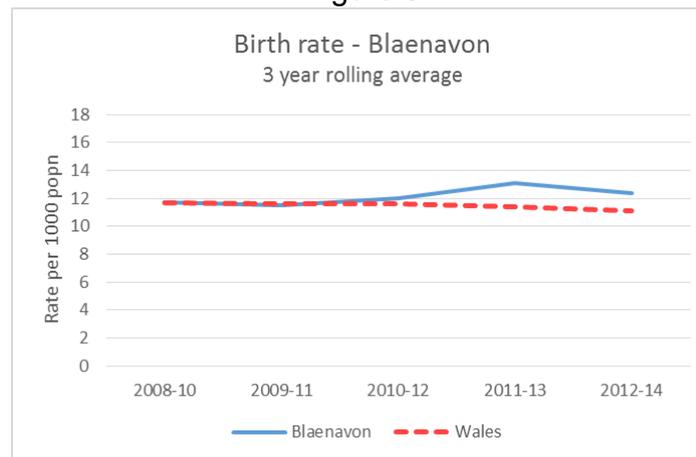
Torfaen County Borough Council birth data remains higher than the Welsh average. Figure 4 shows the live birth rate (Rate per 1000pop) during 2006-2014.

Figure 4. Birth Rates Health Maps Wales

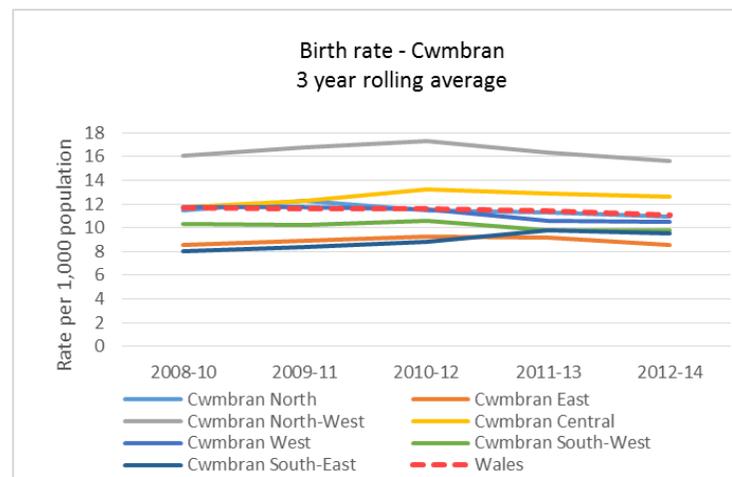
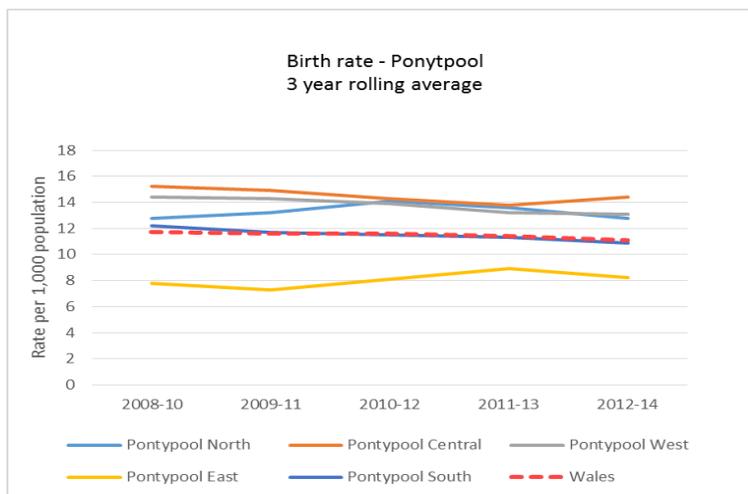
Area	2006-08	2007-09	2008-10	2009-11	2010-12	2011-13	2012-14
Torfaen	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.1
Wales	11.6	11.6	11.8	11.9	12.1	11.9	11.5

Figure 5 shows that the birth rate in Blaenavon has been marginally higher than the Welsh average over the last few years. Despite a peak and a gradual decrease, this still indicates that the number of births within Blaenavon area are higher than the Welsh average.

Figure 5



The graphs below show the birth rates for Pontypool and Cwmbran, which reveal that predominantly Pontypool birth rates are higher than the all Wales average, yet they fluctuate in comparison. Birth rates for Cwmbran suggest a lower rate than the all Wales average, however the North West and central area of Cwmbran have been significantly higher.



The number of children with a disability

Data from Torfaen County Borough Councils Social Care and Housing Department reveal that there are a total of 214 known children with a disability in Torfaen (an increase of 44 children since the last full assessment). It must be noted, however, that there are likely to be significantly more children with disabilities that are not known to the council as they may be looked after by their families without council intervention.

The figure 6 shows the number of children per age group and geographical area

Figure 6a. Disabled Children, TCBC Social Care

	Age																		Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Blaenavon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pontypool	3	2	2	4	0	14	5	3	0	7	5	15	4	7	5	8	7	4	95
Cwmbran	0	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	7	5	9	3	14	17	10	3	14	111
Total	3	6	5	7	4	18	9	9	3	14	16	24	7	21	22	18	10	18	214

The data for children with a disability suggest that, of those;

- 25 children are aged 0-4 years (increase of 3 children since the last full assessment);
- 69 children are aged 5-10 years (increase of 11 children since the last full assessment);
- 74 children aged 11-14 years (increase of 34 children since the last full assessment);
- 46 children aged 15-17 years (decrease of 4 children since the last full assessment)

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Figure 6b. Shows the number of children with Special Educational Needs and who attend schools within Torfaen. Data is based on the number of SEN pupils aged 3 and post 16 years on the school roll on School Census day (12 January 2016) and was submitted by Torfaen County Borough Council. Please note that this includes the number of children with a SEN stage of School Action, School Action Plus and Statement of Special Educational Needs. Any school with less than five pupils with SEN or Statements has the figure reported as <5 to protect individual's identity and observe confidentiality and data protection.

Figure 6b. No. of children with Special Educational Needs - TCBC

SCHOOLNAME	Count of pupils:	
	SEN pupils	Statements
Area 1 BLAENAVON		
Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School	128	5
Area 2 PONTYPOOL		
Abersychan Comprehensive	315	26
Brynteg Nursery	<5	0
Cwmffrwdor Primary	69	<5
Garnteg Primary	97	<5
George Street Primary School	82	0
Griffithstown Primary School	46	<5
New Inn Primary School	83	<5
Padre Pio RC Primary School	38	<5

Penygarn Community Primary School	93	0
St. Albans R.C. High School	161	12
Victoria Primary	49	<5
West Monmouth School	156	6
YSGOL BRYN ONNEN	41	0
YSGOL GYFUN GWYNLLYW	184	12
Ysgol Panteg	34	0
Area 3 CWMBRAN		
Blenheim Road Community Primary School	62	0
Coed Eva Primary School	61	<5
Croesyceiliog Primary School	78	<5
Croesyceiliog School	221	14
Crownbridge Special School	101	70
Cwmbran High School	284	44
Cwmbran R.C. Jnr. & Infts.	45	<5
Greenmeadow Primary	53	<5
Henllys Church in Wales	35	0
Llantarnam Community Primary School	43	<5
Llanyrafon Primary School	135	0
Maendy Junior and Infants	46	<5
Nant Celyn Primary School	87	17
Pontnewydd Primary & Nursery	58	<5
PONTHIR CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL	7	0
St. Davids Cwmbran R.C. School	34	0

Woodlands Community Primary School	57	<5
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran Primary	81	0
Total	3069	276

Figure 6.b indicated that there are a total of 3069 pupils with Special Education Needs, with 48.5% attending schools in the Cwmbran area, 47.3% in Pontypool and 4.2% in Blaenavon.

The number of households with dependent children

Data submitted from PSSU suggest that there are a total of 12,902 working families within Torfaen. Of these, 10,842 are couples where both parents are working and 2,060 are lone parents in employment.

Geographically there are a total of 766 working parents from the Blaenavon area, 5,202 from Pontypool and 6,934 from Cwmbran, with 16% of these being lone parents. The highest number of working families are identified in the Cwmbran area with a total of 5,752 parents being part of a couple and both in employment. A further 17% (1182) of these are lone parents and are amongst the highest level of lone working parents in Torfaen.

Number of families from ethnic minority backgrounds

96.9% of the total population in Torfaen are from White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ethnic backgrounds which is 4% higher than the all Wales average. Mid-year population estimates reveal a number of other ethnic minority backgrounds, of these;

- 0.3% are White Irish
- 0.2% are White Gypsy or Irish
- 0.6% are White Other
- 0.3% are Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean
- 0.1% are Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African
- 0.2% are Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian
- 0.1% are Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed

- 0.2% are Asian/Asian British: Indian
- 0.1% are Asian/Asian British: Pakistani
- 0.1% are Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi
- 0.2% are Asian/Asian British: Chinese
- 0.5% are Asian/Asian British: Other Asian
- 0.1% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African
- 0.1% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean
- 0.1% are Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group

Figures 7,8 and 9 below show the ethnicity background of the Torfaen Population geographically between Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran. These are compared to the all Wales average.

Figure 7. TableDC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011

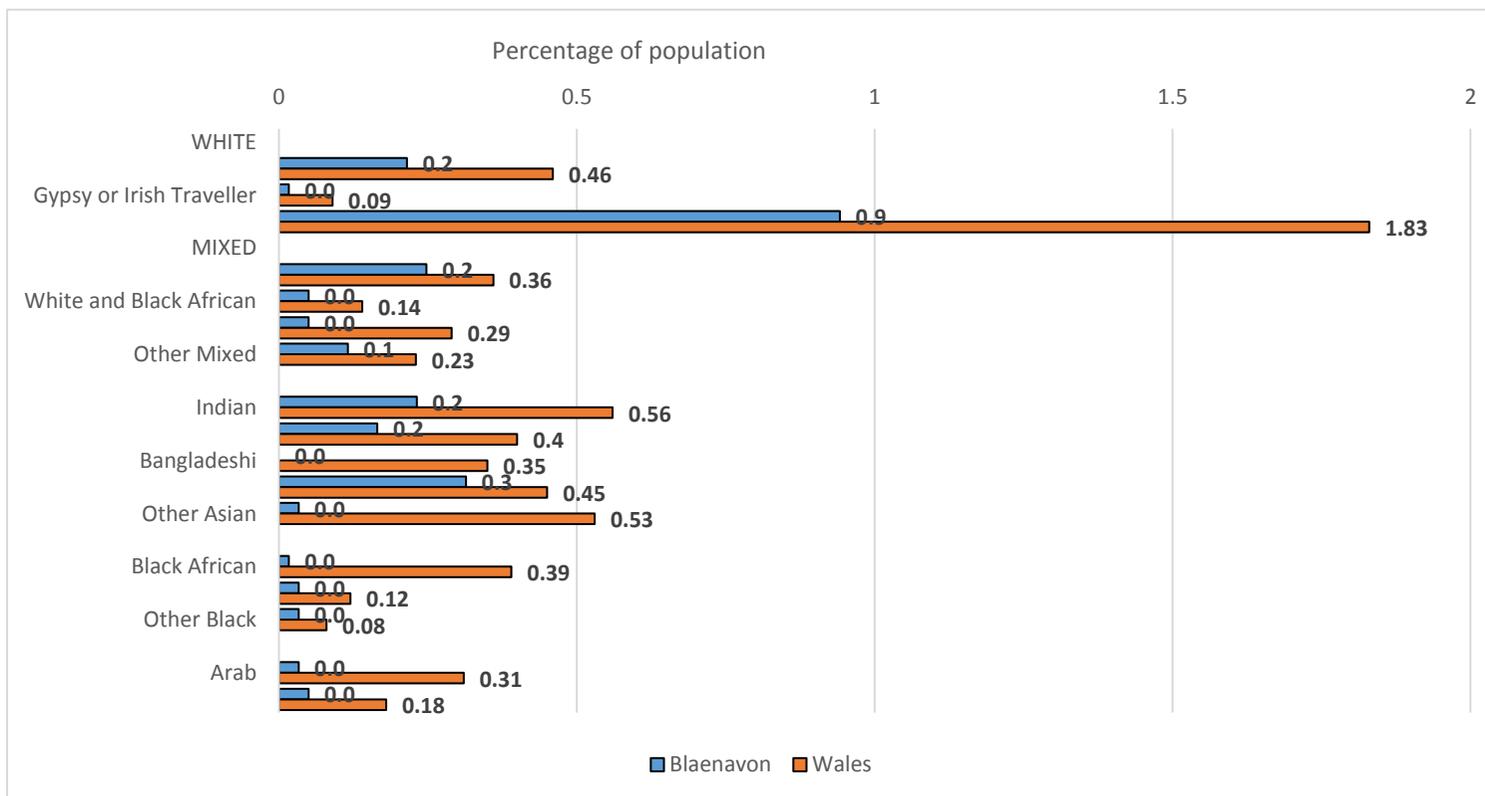


Figure 8. TableDC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011

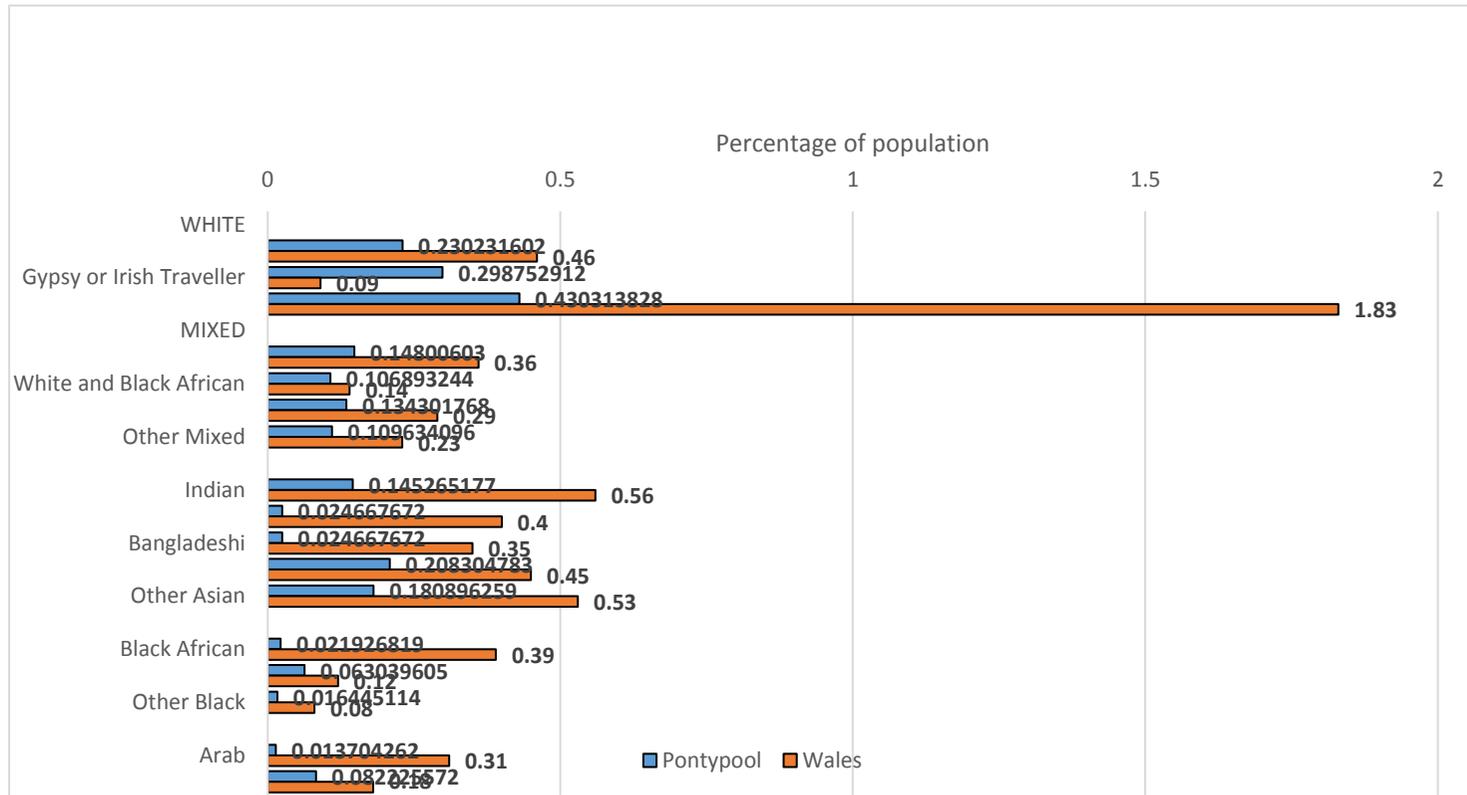
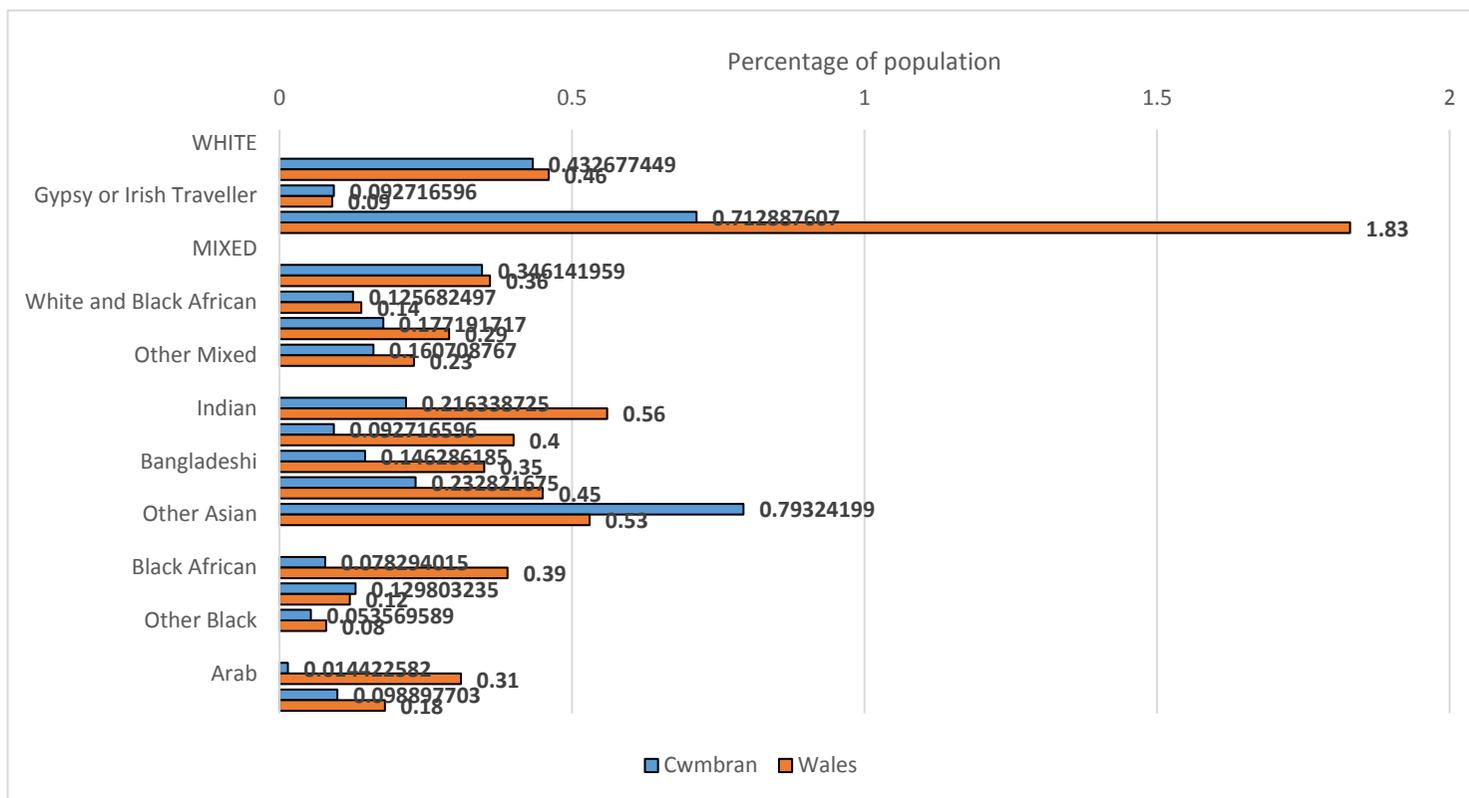


Figure 9. TableDC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011



Dependent children by ethnic group of Household Reference Person (HRP) by age

Data provided by PSSU reveal that there is total of 19,872 children by ethnic group, of these 97% are from a white ethnic background.

Figure 10, 11 and 12 below depicts the age range of children per ethnicity and geographical distribution.

Figure 10. TableDC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011

Blaenavon	All usual residents	White: Total	White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Other White	Non-White
Age 0-4	386	377	373	0	0	4	9
Age 5-7	245	242	238	0	0	4	3
Age 8-9	129	128	125	0	0	3	1
Age 10-14	353	347	345	0	0	2	6
Age 15	85	81	81	0	0	0	4
Age 16-17	167	161	160	0	0	1	6
Total Age 0-17	1365	1336	1322	0	0	14	29

Figure 11. Table DC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011

Pontypool	All usual residents	White: Total	White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Other White	Non-White
Age 0-4	2221	2180	2153	0	16	11	41
Age 5-7	1224	1213	1197	1	10	5	11
Age 8-9	769	762	750	0	6	6	7
Age 10-14	2144	2119	2094	0	19	6	25
Age 15	469	453	446	1	4	2	16
Age 16-17	1036	1014	1010	0	2	2	22
Total Age 0-17	7863	7741	7650	2	57	32	122

Figure 12. Table DC2101EW: Ethnic group by sex and age, Census 2011

Cwmbran	All usual residents	White: Total	White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Other White	Non-White
Age 0-4	2774	2671	2648	1	8	14	103
Age 5-7	1636	1588	1579	2	1	6	48
Age 8-9	1030	999	990	1	1	7	31
Age 10-14	3123	3013	2984	5	7	17	110
Age 15	654	633	627	1	2	3	21
Age 16-17	1427	1368	1353	1	4	10	59
Total Age 0-17	10644	10272	10181	11	23	57	372

Number of Welsh language speakers and learners

Data provided by PSSU and the Welsh Language Officer for Torfaen County Borough reveals that for the academic year of 2016/2017 there are a total of 594 Welsh Learners in Torfaen. The figure below shows the number of learners accessing different class levels or teaching methods. Please note that Torfaen County Borough employee learners are included in these figures as they attend community classes.

Figure 13 Welsh Language speakers and learners TCBC

Level / Teaching Method	16/17
Mynediad 1	36
Mynediad 2	8
Mynediad Wlpan	34
Cymraeg o'r Crud	25
Sylfaen 1	16
Sylfaen 2	35
Sylfaen Wlpan	21
Super Fast Track	19
Canolradd 1	16
Canolradd 2	0
Canolradd 1/2	0
Canolradd Fast Track	14
Uwch Pontio	0
Uwch 1	0
Uwch 2	0
Uwch 3	16
Uwch 4	0
Uwch 1/2	0
Uwch 2/3	0
Uwch 3/4	0

Hyfedredd	0
Welsh Training	76
Welsh Day School	90
Welsh Weekend	83
Welsh Short Course	57
Welsh Col Cert	21
Non Accredited Course	0
Informal Learning	0
Skype	27
Total	594

In addition to this there are a total of 8,641 Welsh speakers aged 3+ living within Torfaen. Geographically 581 (7%) reside within Blaeanavon, 3,275 in Pontypool (38%) and 4,785 in Cwmbran. It is apparent that over half the population of Welsh speakers live within the Cwmbran area (55%).

Main trends and factors likely to affect figures in Torfaen County Borough Council

Demographic Data from the Torfaen Well-being Assessment DRAFT Executive Summary published in January 2017 states;

“Projections show that by 2039, the percentage of total population in Torfaen who are aged 65 and over will rise from 20.1% in 2016 to 28.3% and the number of Torfaen residents aged 85 and over is projected to be more than double in the next 23 years, from 2,372 in 2016 to 5,595 in 2039; an increase of 136% [20] We know that these challenges mean that there will be increased demand for some services, with increasing numbers of older people needing care and primary health services. Latest projections also show an expected 9.6% fall in the number of children and young people aged 0 to 25 over the next 23 years, from 28,010 to 25,330. This is similar to the projections for Wales” (pg.16).

“There is wide variation in the level of deprivation experienced across Torfaen. The three most deprived LSOAs in Torfaen are Trevethin 1 which is ranked 35, Upper Cwmbran 1 which is ranked 78 and Pontnewydd 1 which is ranked 138, out of the total 1909 LSOAs in Wales [7] . The 3 least deprived LSOAs are Llanyrafon South which is ranked 1841, New Inn 3 which is ranked 1836 and New Inn 4 that is ranked 1754, out of the total 1909 LSOAs in Wales [7] . In Torfaen 57% of LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. 5% of LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales and 3% of LSOAs fall within the 10% least deprived

LSOAs in Wales [7] . There are lower than average levels of deprivation in the most deprived category (most deprived 10%), but higher than average levels of deprivation in the most deprived 20%, 30% and 50% categories [7] .

Overall in Torfaen, 1 in 5 households are in material deprivation (this includes items such as food, heating, durable goods and household bills). (National Survey for Wales) [3] . At 15.9%, the percentage of children living in workless households in Torfaen was higher than Wales at 14.6% in 2014 (Welsh Government) [3] . There is a higher percentage of children living in low income families in Torfaen on 31st August 2013 at 22.4%, compared to Wales at 20.5% (Welsh Government) [3] . 17.4% of Torfaen school pupils are eligible for free school meals. There is a higher proportion of children who attend schools in Blaenavon and Pontypool who are eligible (20.6% and 18.0% respectively) compared to Cwmbran (16.5%)” (pg.7)

Furthermore it can be considered that a number of other factors may affect figures in Torfaen. The following summaries have been abstracted from the Torfaen Well-being Assessment DRAFT Executive Summary.

➤ Economic challenges

Torfaen has a higher proportion of residents who are employed in the public sector and manufacturing. We also know that the largest percentages of Torfaen residents work in Cwmbran, followed by Pontypool, then Newport and, that average weekly pay is lower than the Wales average, and significantly lower than the UK average and, that men earn significantly more than women. Additionally, compared to the Wales average, people living in Torfaen have lower levels of qualifications and skills. To plan for the future well-being of our communities we also need to consider other factors that could have an influence on the economy locally.

➤ Austerity Measures

The impact of continued austerity measures mean there will be more cuts to the public sector, at a time when we are expecting demand for some services to increase. Future austerity measures also have the potential to impact greatest on those in our most deprived communities.

➤ Future Employment

In order to transition towards a more sustainable community by 2035, that meets local demand, the recent Pontypool Deep Place study advocates progressively developing locally, the range of sectors that fall within the foundational economy i.e. food, energy and energy conservation, care, the environment etc. We know that future generations are always going to have demand for these sectors

as they are fundamental for everyday life. The study also highlighted the risks of over-looking existing economic activity and potentially missing opportunities to support its development. This is important because it will help ensure our communities and local economies are more resilient against external shocks, as well as in safeguarding our environment for future generations. Future technological advances will also likely change what people will be doing for employment in the future, and will present important opportunities to support and strengthen our local economies across Torfaen. Technological advances are also likely to contribute to a more 'circular' and less socially and environmentally exploitative economic model for our communities.

➤ Housing demand

The Local Development Plan allocates for the provision of 4700 additional homes in Torfaen between 2006 -2021. At April 2016 1888 dwellings had been delivered leaving a remaining requirement for 2865 dwellings up to 2021 (accounting for accrued demolitions) [26] . The LMHA shows that based on current projections, Torfaen will need approximately 200 additional affordable units of housing per annum for the next five years (2015– 2020) to meet housing need [5]. Additionally much of the housing stock in Torfaen could be improved in terms of energy efficiency, to create warmer homes, that are cheaper to run and that produce less carbon emissions.

5. Overview – Childcare Types, Services and Places

5.1 Number of Childcare Providers & Type of Services (Registered and Unregistered/ Approved)

Please note that the overview of childcare is based on the SASS data issued by CSSIW and agreed with Welsh Government for the analysis of the CSA. Torfaen County Borough Council received less than a 90% response rate for registered childcare providers and no data was received from unregistered/approved childcare providers. Therefore the overview of childcare is not a true analysis of the current status of childcare within Torfaen and should be approached with caution when making generalisations. A separate analysis will be submitted during 2017. The number of unregistered childcare providers has been evaluated by data held on the Family Information Services database. Please note the unregistered data does not contain fields required in the below tables due to a zero response from unregistered providers. Currently there are no registered Nannies within Torfaen, therefore data is not available to populate Section 6.7.1.

Please note all geographical areas will be referred to as Area 1 – Blaenavon, Area 2 – Pontypool and Area 3 – Cwmbran.

Figure 14 Overview of childcare types. SASS Data 2016

Childcare Type	Registered	Unregistered/ Approved)	Childcare Services Offered	Registered	Unregistered/ Approved
Childminder	44	N/A	Full day care throughout the year	44	
			Half day care throughout the year	34 am and pm	
			Before school	33	
			After school	36	
			Wrap Around	15	
			Holiday Provision	34	
			Other		
Day Care					
Full Day Care	33	N/A	Full day nursery throughout the year	19	
			Half day nursery throughout the year	31 (16 am 15 pm)	
			Before school	13	

			Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	12	
			Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	10	
			After school	13	
			Wrap Around	17	
			Lunch	12	
			Holiday Provision	9	
			Crèche	2*	
			Other		
Sessional Day Care	3	N/A	Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	3	
			Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	1	
			Wrap Around	1	
			Lunch	1	
			Other	0	

*Please note the data supplied has already been submitted in the full day care annex, this does not show a true reflection of places available as the information is based on data supplied from one full day care setting.

Crèches	2	N/A	Operates Full Day	0	
			Operates Mornings	0	
			Operates Afternoons	0	
			Holiday Provision	0	
			Other – no opening times submitted please note this information was submitted in the full day care	2	
Out of School Care	6	N/A	Before School	2	
			After School	3	
			Holiday Provision	1	
			Playscheme sessions	0	
			Other	0	
Open Access Play Provision			Before School		
			After School	17 clubs	

			Holiday Provision	34 summer playschemes, 10 Half Term playschemes over Feb June and Oct 2016	
			Playscheme sessions	2 Saturday and Sunday respite	
			Other		
Nanny	0		Full day care throughout the year		
			Half day care throughout the year		
			Before school		
			After school		
			Wrap around a part time Early Education placement, e.g. playgroup or school nursery		
			Holiday provision in the school holidays		
			Other		
TOTAL	151				

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Providers & Services provided (Registered and Excepted/ Approved)

Figure 15. Childcare provision per geographical areas. SASS data 2016.

Type of Childcare Provider	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Childminder	0	17	28
Full Day Care	2	14	17
Sessional Care		2	1
Creches			2*
Out of School Care		4	2
Open Access Provisions Summer (Aug 16)	2	10	22
Open Access Provisions Half term (Oct 16)	2	4	4
Open Access after school clubs	1	5	11
Nanny	0	0	0

* Please note the data supplied has already been submitted in the full day care annex, this does not show a true reflection of places available as the information is based on data supplied from one full day care setting.

Please note Torfaen Play Service offer respite sessions in addition to after school clubs on Saturday's and Sunday's, during half term and summer play schemes. These are by referral only and have not been included in the analysis.

5.2. Childcare Places – Supply and Demand per Childcare Type
Registered Provision – Term Time

Figure 16. Supply and Demand SASS data 2016

Childcare Type	Places as per registration	Term Time				
		Maximum Capacity of childcare places available daily	Number of Children using service	Number of Vacancies	Number of children on Waiting List	Number of childcare places required
Childminder	331	406	360	474 (combined term time and school holidays)	3 places term time only. No waiting lists for holiday care	4 (based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Day Care						
Full Day Nursery	1242	3594	5911	1890 (combined term time and school holidays)	20 (combined term time and school holidays)	17 (based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Sessional Day Care	64	123	112	21 Term time only	0	2 (wrap around only, based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Crèches	Included in Full Day Care figures					2 (Based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Out of School Care	176	163	165	254 (combined term time and	5 places during Spring, Summer and Autumn	20 (6 BSC, 5 ASC, 6 Holiday throughout the

				school holidays)		day, 3 playscheme plus. Based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Open Access Play Provision	N/A	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	7 (1 BSC 2 ASC 2 Holiday Playscheme 2 Playscheme sessions. Based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Nanny	No data available					

Registered Provision – School Holidays

Childcare Type	Places as per registration	School holidays				
		Maximum Capacity of childcare places available daily	Number of Children using service	Number of Vacancies	Number of children on Waiting List	Number of childcare places required
Childminder	331	273	360	474 (combined term time and school holidays)	0	4 (based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Day Care						

Full Day Nursery	1242	919	4573	1890 (combined term time and school holidays)	0	17 (based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Sessional Day Care	64	32	Data unavailable			2 (wraparound only based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Crèches	Data submitted with Full Day Care					2 (based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Out of School Care	176	92	442	254 (combined term time and school holidays)	0	20 (6 BSC, 5 ASC, 6 Holiday throughout the day, 3 playscheme plus. based on no. of respondents not childcare places)
Open Access Play Provision	N/A	3330	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	7 (1 BSC 2 ASC 2 Holiday Playscheme 2 Playscheme sessions)
Nanny	No data available					

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – Term Time

Figure 17 summarises the number of maximum capacity of places available per childcare type geographically

Figure 17. Maximum capacity of places term time SASS data 2016.

Childcare Type	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Childminder		269	276
Full Day Care	545	1976	2225
Sessional Day Care		38	59
Creches	Data submitted within Full Day Care		
Out of School Care		130	33
Open Access Play Provision	Data unavailable		
Nanny	No data available		

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – School Holidays –

Figure 18 summarises the number of places available per childcare type geographically

Figure 18. Maximum capacity of places term time SASS data 2016.

Childcare Type	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Childminder		110	163
Full Day Care	65	626	510
Sessional Day Care		32	
Creches	Data submitted within Full Day Care		
Out of School Care			92
Open Access Play Provision	240	840	2250
Nanny	No data available		

Figure 19 shows the Demand for childcare geographically as per the Parent / Carer Survey. Please note this is based on the number of respondents, not the number of childcare places required. The Parent Carer survey was completed by 274 respondents.

Figure 19 Demand for childcare. Parent Carer Survey.

Childcare Type	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Childminder		1	3
Full Day Care	1	8	8
Sessional Day Care		2	
Creches	1	1	
Out of School Care		5 (2 BSC, 1ASC, 1 Holiday, 1 Playscheme)	15 (4BSC, 4 ASC, 5Holiday, 2 Playscheme)
Open Access Play Provision		3 (1 ASC, 1 holiday playscheme, 1 playscheme session)	4 (1 BSC, 1 ASC, 1 Holiday playscheme, 1 playscheme session)
Nanny			

6. Supply of Childcare

6.1. Childminder

6.1.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council sought to report on the analysis of childcare within Torfaen based on data supplied by CSSIW during November 2016. Annexes supplied by Welsh Government are referenced per childcare type, however further reference is made where data is not comparable. Registered childcare providers were requested to complete a Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on behalf of CSSIW and the data was collected during July 2016. Torfaen County Borough Council has adhered to the requirements placed by Welsh Government, however the response rate from childcare providers was less than 90% and therefore the following analysis cannot be identified as a true indication of childcare within Torfaen. Reference will be made (where applicable) to demonstrate any abnormalities. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Please note all geographical areas will be referred to as Area 1 – Blaenavon, Area 2 – Pontypool and Area 3 – Cwmbran

Range of services provided

There are a total of 44 registered childminders in Torfaen and no unregistered or approved (Torfaen Family Information Service only holds details of registered childminders within the Torfaen area and during a snapshot of time there were a total of 55 registered childminders within Torfaen during November 2016).

The total number of services provided by registered childminders exceeds the total number of actual childminders as some childminders may provide more than one service.

Figure 20 illustrates the types of services offered by language preference

Figure 20. Types of services offered by language preference SASS data 2016

Services Provided	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	Welsh & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Full Day Care			11	33		44
Half Day Care (am)			8	26		34
Half Day Care (pm)			8	26		34
Before School			8	25		33
After School			8	28		36
Wrap Around			6	9		15
Holiday Provision			8	26		34
Other			0	1 Flying Start		1
TOTAL			57	174		231

100% of childminders who responded to the SASS offer Full Day Care, with 77% offering their service through the medium of English and being located within the Cwmbran area. All childminders provide more than one service with the majority offering before and after school care, half day sessions and holiday provisions

There are currently no registered childminders within the Blaenavon area or any childminders who exclusively provide care through the medium of Welsh. 1 childminder also provides free Flying Start childcare within the Pontypool area.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc)

There are a total of 114 full time childcare places between 34 registered childminders who provide care within an English with some bilingual elements environment. Just over half of these places are within the Pontypool area. Please note that childminders may provide a variety of provisions and therefore their maximum capacity number will be incorporated in more than one childcare provision. Therefore the actual number of childcare places may exceed the number of childcare places available at any one time.

Figure 21 below shows the maximum capacity and the take up of places (Annex 1) during term time.

Figure 21. Maximum capacity and the take up of places (Annex 1) during term time SASS data 2016.

Services	Language of Provision						TOTAL									
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements out of 34 CM	English out of 11 CM	Other											
Maximum Capacity																
Full Day Care			114	8			122									
Half Day Care (am)			44	1			45									
Half Day Care (pm)			45	1			46									
Before School			70	4			74									
After School			88	6			94									
Wrap Around			25	0			25									
Holiday Provision			unknown	Unknown												
Other			unknown	Unknown												
TOTAL MAXIMUM CAPACITY			386	20			406									
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Full Day Care							21	57	9	8	3	1				99
Half Day Care (am)							3	11	6	1	1	0				22
Half Day Care (pm)							4	8	7	1	0	0				20
Before School							25	23	3	4	28	4				87
After School							22	41	12	6	38	4				123
Wrap Around							4	2	0	0	2	1				9
Holiday Provision																
Other							0	0	0	0	0	0				0
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING							79	142	37	20	72	10				360

Annex 8 shows that a total of 360 children are accessing a childminder based on a maximum capacity of 406 childcare places during term time. However, children may access a number of provisions and therefore have been included in the totals. As a result judgments about childcare vacancy places may be flawed.

The majority of children access part time childcare in both English with some bilingual elements, and with English medium childminders.

The table shows that the majority of childminder childcare places are based on full day care (122 places) with 99 children accessing this service through full, part time and ad-hoc basis. However the number of children accessing after school childcare with a registered childminder exceeds the total capacity of places available. Therefore identifying that more children access a part time childcare place outside of school hours.

The number of holiday places available were unavailable in the SASS data used for the assessment, therefore places available can only be identified by those submitted during school holidays.

During term time, there are more children accessing English with bilingual elements childcare through the use of a childminder (258) compared to those using an English Medium Childminder (102)

During School holidays there are total of 273 childcare places offered through English with some bilingual elements (71) and English medium registered childminders (202). This creates a decrease of 133 childcare places during the school holidays.

However figure 22 (Annex 1) shows that the number of children accessing a registered childminder far exceeds the number of children using childcare during term time.

Figure 22. Number of children accessing a registered childminder SASS data 2016.

	Language of Provision															
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements 11CM			English 34 CM			Other			TOTAL
Maximum Capacity of Childcare during School Holidays							71			202						273
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Summer Holiday							17	30	0	19	115	16				197
October Half Term							11	25	0	18	99	19				172
Christmas Holiday							10	23	0	15	83	13				144
February Half Term							5	23	0	18	101	14				161
Easter Holiday							13	24	0	17	99	20				173
May Half Term							9	19	0	14	97	20				159
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING							65	144	0	101	594	102				1006

The majority of children accessed a part time childcare place during the school holidays, with a significant number of children (594) accessing an English medium place.

The maximum number of places available are distributed evenly throughout the Pontypool (110) and Cwmbran (163) areas. However, a total of 754 children accessed a full, part time and ad hoc holiday provision within the Cwmbran area. This can be compared to 252 children accessing the same provision within the Pontypool area.

Based on the information submitted from the SASS, there are no welsh medium places being occupied.

Vacancies and Waiting lists

Based on the information submitted by registered childminders for the SASS, it has been reported that a number of childminders have vacancies over a number of provisions they provide. Some childminders provide more than one childcare provision, therefore the number of vacancies may greatly differ from the reality and show higher levels. 4 childminders failed to identify their vacancy records therefore data is based on the responses of 40 registered childminders.

Annex 1 shows that a total of 474 vacant childcare places are reported by 40 registered childminders during term time and school holidays with the majority of these being available in full day care (81), before school (81) and after school (76). Low number of vacancies are reported for wrap around facilities, however the maximum capacity of the total number of places available are also relatively low.

Vacancies are more prevalent within the Cwmbran area with a total of 280 childcare places over several childcare provisions. Vacancies are higher within full day care (56), before school (47) and after school (47). This can be compared to full day care places within Pontypool (25), before school (34) and after school (29).

Only 1 English Medium registered childminder within the Cwmbran area reported 3 childcare places on a waiting list during term time. No other data was submitted.

Age range of children

The below table from Annex 8 shows the distribution of childminders who care provide care for the following ages groups.

Figure 23 Age range of children SASS data 2016.

Age Ranges	Total Number of Childminders per Area									
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English		Total	
	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3
Under 12 months					1	0	8	9	9	9
12-18 months					4	2	9	16	13	18
19-23 months					4	2	9	16	13	18
2 years					5	3	10	20	15	23
3 years					5	3	10	20	15	23
4 years					5	4	10	22	15	26
5-7 years					4	4	10 (1 only up to 6 years)	21	14	25
8-11 years					4	4	8	1 up to 11 years	12	5
12-14 years					1 (for 13 only)	0	0	1	1	1
12 years					3	0	5	6	8	6
15-17 years					0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL					36(over 6 CM)	22 (over 5 CM)	79(over 11 CM)	133(over 23 CM)		

Please note that some registered childminders have indicated that they provide care for more than one age group and therefore have been duplicated in the totals. As a result totals are grossly over exaggerated and do not show a true indication of the number of childminders per area and for per age group. Therefore the below summary describes the total number of childminders who provide

care for the following age groups. Please note that many childminders are now registered to care for children up to the age of 14 years, however not all childminders have indicated this on the SASS data.

- There are a large number of childminders who can provide care for 4 year olds (41) and for 5 - 7 year olds (39)
- There are only 2 childminders who can provide care for 12 - 14 year olds, however 14 childminders report that they can provide care for 12 year olds.
- Only 1 childminder within the Cwmbran area can provide care for children aged 15 - 17 years
- A total of 18 childminders provide care for under 12 months
- The majority of childminders who complete this section of the SASS can provide care for children aged between 12 months to 3 years.
- Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

Term time

During term time the number of childminders who indicated opening times on the SASS data proved to be inconsistent. Many Childminders reported several sessions over the course of a full day care opening times (e.g. 08.00am – 6.00pm). The majority of childminders operate during the hours between 8am – 6pm, with the exception of 3 childminders offering childcare before (7am – 9am and 8am – 9am) and after (3pm – 5pm and 3pm - 7pm) school only. Therefore the following analysis of Annex 8 will examine the number of childminders who offer flexible childcare hours including early mornings and late evenings

- 1 childminder opens from 6am Monday to Friday. This childminder also provides a service until late evening at 7pm.
- 3 childminders open from 6.30am, however only 2 provide this service Monday – Friday (1 childminder only submitted opening times for one day)
- 8 registered childminders open from 7am, however only 3 childminders are open until 5.30pm, 6pm and 7pm. 5 indicate no closing time and days open are inconsistent.
- One childminder provides part time care (08.30-1pm) in the Pontypool area during Saturday and Sunday
- 16 childminders open between 6am – 7.30am with a further 11 opening between 8am-8.30am.
- There are a total of 18 childminders who provide care after 5pm, however only 8 of these provide care until 6pm, 1 until 6.30pm and 3 until 7pm. There is only one childminder who provides care after 7pm.

Length of sessions during school holidays

During the summer holidays, Easter, and May half term, 29 childminders indicated that they provide care. Please note that several childminders did not complete this section fully and 16 childminders did not specify any times, therefore a number of discrepancies are noted within the data. The below information is a summary of information provided, however this should not be considered a conclusive overview of the level of provisions during these times.

3 childminders provide care during 06.30am – 6pm during summer holidays

14 childminders open at 8am, 5 of these offer care until 6m during summer holidays

Opening times fluctuate during the school holidays with many childminders reducing or increasing hours throughout the year (please see Annex 1 for reference).

27 childminders provide care during February Half term and 26 childminders during October.

Not all childminders provide care for the two weeks during the Easter holidays

One childminder reported that they offer care 8am-6pm 52 weeks of the year

During Christmas holidays, 24 registered childminders are available to provide care, however 7 can only provide partial care during the full Christmas period.

Range of charges

Average childcare costs are calculated on the basis of 39 responses from the SASS data. Please note that a number of childminders provided hourly and day care rates, therefore the average cost is not an accurate reflection of the information required in Annex 1.

- Average costs of Full day care within a childminder provision is £21.29 (based on 39 responses).
- Average costs for half day care, both am and pm is £11.71 (based on 28 responses)
- Average costs for before school is £5.34 (based on 30 responses)
- Average costs for after school care is £6.12 (based on 33 responses)
- Average wraparound costs are £8.03 (based on 15 responses)
- Average costs for holiday provision Am are £11.11 (based on 28 responses)
- Average costs for holiday provision Pm are £10.78 (based on 27 responses)
- Additional costs include an average of £19.31 (based on 8 response). Please note that additional costs were not specified and are unknown costs.
- 22 registered childminders offer discounts for siblings

Range of charges by Geographical distribution

As previously reported, there are currently no registered childminders within the Blaenavon area, therefore the below table only makes reference to the Pontypool and Cwmbran areas. Please note that the averages are a combination of hourly rates and day rates submitted on the SASS data, therefore some totals may appear greater or lesser in comparison. This does not suggest that childcare is of a low cost in some areas.

Figure 24. Range of charges SASS data 2016.

Childminder provision – average costs	Pontypool		Cwmbran	
	English & some bilingual elements	English	English & some bilingual elements	English
Full day care	£24.60	£13.02	£31.50	£20.87
Half day care am	£14.80	£6.78	£19.88	£11.56
Half day care pm	£14.80	£6.78	£19.88	£11.56
Before School care	£7.10	£4.59	£6.33	£5.22
After School care	£8.10	£5.21	£6.33	£6.46
Wraparound	£9.66	£4.00	£6.33	£4.22
Holiday Provision Am	£14.05	£6.66	£14.40	£11.48
Holiday Provision Pm	£14.05	£3.99	£17.00	£11.48

Number of places filled by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Figure 25 shows the number of children who have special educational needs or a disability accessing a registered childminder as provided by the SASS data. Please note that figure may be greater than specified.

Figure 25. No.of children who have special educational needs SASS data 2016.

Geographical Distribution	Total Number of Children with Special Educational Needs or Disability				
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other
Area 2 Pontypool			1	8	
Area 3 Cwmbran			2	6	
TOTAL			3	14	

A total of 17 children are accessing a childcare place within a registered childminder setting. Annex 1 shows that a number of children have clinical diagnoses or are awaiting formal assessments.

Speech, language and communication difficulties are the most common statement/awaiting statement. However due to the nature of the SASS data, it can be only assumed the number of children collate to the categories chosen. Therefore this is not conclusive as some children may have multiple conditions.

Childcare Operating Outside of Normal Working Hours

Figure 26. Childcare operating outside normal working hours SASS data 2016.

Provision of Care	Number of Childminders					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Term Time						
Childcare before 8am			7	22		29
Childcare after 6pm			3	8		11
Overnight Care			0	1		1
Weekend Care			0	1		1
School Holidays						
Childcare before 8am			6	18		24
Childcare after 6pm			3	7		10
Overnight Care			0	1		1
Weekend Care			0	1		1

6.1.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Due to the incomplete information provided by the SASS data a summary of strengths and weaknesses cannot be generalised as a true analysis of childminder provision in Torfaen. The below summary is based on the above analysis, however further investigation will be needed to validate these strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths

- 80% of childminders in Torfaen responded to the SASS data
- All childminders who completed the SASS offer Full Day Care (44)
- 82% of childminders who responded to the SASS offer after school provision, and 75% offer a before school, potentially suggesting that over 65% of all childminders in Torfaen provide after school care.
- 72% of childminders who responded to the SASS offer holiday provision
- Flying Start childcare is available through one childminder in the Pontypool area
- 1 childminder is identified as being able to care for children aged 15 - 17 years
- There is a large number of childminders who provide care for children ages 3 - 4 years and 5 - 7 years
- Childminders offer a variety of flexible opening hours and provide childcare before 8.00am and up to 6pm
- Over half of childminders who responded to the SASS provided care during Christmas holidays, although this is at a reduced capacity

Weaknesses

- The total number of services provided exceeds the total number of childminders available. Some childminders may provide more than one service
- There are no registered Childminders in Blaenavon
- There is a reduced capacity for wraparound childcare amongst childminders
- There is more after school provision available than before school provision
- Based on those who responded to the SASS, there are no Welsh or Bilingual childcare places available. However incidental Welsh is used amongst 11 childminders

- Vacancy data suggests that there is a demand for afterschool childcare as the number of children attending exceeds the maximum capacity of places available
- During school holidays there is a decrease of 133 registered childcare places, however the number of children accessing childcare during school holidays far exceeds the number of children using the same provision during term time
- The majority of vacancies are within Full Day Care provision and in the Cwmbran area
- The number of childminders providing care for children aged 12+ is dramatically lower than those providing care up to the age of 11 years, however the data from the SASS is misleading as a number of childminders report that they can care for 12 year olds
- Only 41% of childminders who responded to the SASS provide care for children aged under 12 months
- Only 1 childminder was identified as providing care over the weekend
- The number of childcare places available after 6pm is limited
- Several childminders did not complete opening times during school holidays therefore the information is flawed
- Range of charges are inconsistent due to some childminders reporting hourly or full day rates. Due to this it appears that childcare is cheaper in specific areas in Torfaen and dependant on language choice

6.2 Full Day Care

6.2.1 Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council sought to report on the analysis of childcare within Torfaen based on data supplied by CSSIW during November 2016. Annexes supplied by Welsh Government are referenced per childcare type, however further reference is made where data is not comparable. Registered childcare providers were requested to complete a Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on behalf of CSSIW and the data was collected during July 2016. Torfaen County Borough has adhered to the requirements placed by Welsh Government, however the response rate from childcare providers was less than 90% and therefore the following analysis cannot be identified as a true indication of childcare within Torfaen. Reference will be made (where applicable) to demonstrate any abnormalities. Please note that a number of sessional childcare providers are categorised under the SASS as 'full day care', however a number of these do not provide conclusive full day care opening times between 8.00am - 18.00pm.

Torfaen County Borough Council contacted exempted childcare provisions based on the SASS templates, however no records were returned. Information compiled in this report is based on the registered childcare information submitted by the SASS and a comprehensive analysis of registered and unregistered childcare will be reported within the Action Plan. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Full Day Care

Range of services provided

Information provided by the SASS data indicated that there are 33 registered full day care settings within Torfaen. 1 setting provides exclusive Welsh provision, 2 Welsh and English, 15 English with some bilingual elements and 15 in English medium settings. Please note that several childcare providers offer multiple provisions and reported these within the SASS data, therefore the totals will be greater than the information initially stated within the SASS and that held on the Family Information Service database.

Information provided in Annex 2 reveals that 33 registered childcare settings offer a total of 138 provisions, these are distributed by the following;

- 19 Full Day Nurseries
- 16 Morning Half Day Nurseries

- 15 Afternoon Half Day Nurseries
- 12 Morning Playgroups / Cylchoedd Meithrin
- 10 Afternoon Playgroups / Cylchoedd Meithrin
- 13 Before School Provisions
- 13 After School Provisions
- 17 Wraparound facilities
- 12 Lunch Clubs
- 9 Holiday Clubs
- 2 Crèche

The table below shows the number of services distributed by language preference. Please note that Signalong and French were also identified as other languages, but were incorporated within the Welsh & English and English & some bilingual elements totals.

Figure 27. No. of services distributed by language preference SASS data 2016

Services Provided	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Full Day Nursery		1	10	8		19
Half Day Nursery (am)		1	7	8		16
Half Day Nursery (pm)		1	7	7		15
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (am)	1	1	5	5		12
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (pm)	1	1	5	3		10
Before School	1	0	5	7		13
After School		0	5	8		13
Wrap Around	1	1	7	8		17
Lunch	1	0	5	6		12
Holiday Provision		0	4	5		9

Crèche		0	1	1		2
Other						
TOTAL	5	6	61	66		138

Over half of full day care settings are within full day nurseries and deliver childcare through the medium of English and some bilingual elements. Please note that discrepancies within the SASS data revealed that even though some providers identified themselves as a full day nursery, this wasn't repeated throughout the data. Therefore some figures do not confirm the original populations as detailed in the above table.

There are only two full day care settings within the Blaenavon area, none of these are delivered through the medium of Welsh. The childcare providers within the Blaenavon area offer a number of childcare provisions including full day nursery, half day nursery (AM only), Playgroup/ Meithrin (AM & PM), Before and After School care, Wrap around, Lunch and Holiday Club Provision.

There is only 1 Welsh Medium Full Day Care Setting in Torfaen. This is located within the Pontypool area and offers 5 childcare provisions. These include;

- Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin sessions am and pm
- Before and After School care
- Wrap Around
- Lunch club

The majority of full Day Nurseries are located within the Cwmbran area and are predominately delivered through the medium of English & some bilingual elements and English.

There are 2 Bilingual full day care settings in Cwmbran area.

Services offered include

Full Day Nursery

Half Day Nursery am and pm

Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin am and pm

Wrap around

There are no registered Welsh or Bilingual holiday provisions within the Cwmbran area.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) – Term Time

There are a total of 898 places available (based on maximum capacity) within Full Day Nurseries, with a total of 1262 children accessing these places over full time, part time and ad-hoc basis. The majority of these places are marginally delivered over English & some bilingual elements and English medium settings and based in Cwmbran. Please note that many childcare settings provide a number of provisions and therefore their maximum capacity number will be incorporated in more than one childcare provision. Therefore the actual number of childcare places may exceed the number of childcare places available at any one time. Please further note that the total maximum capacity is lower than the registered number of places available. Information was based on attendance levels during July 2016.

Figure 28 shows the maximum capacity and the take up of places (annex 2) during term time

Figure 28. Maximum capacity of places term time SASS data 2016

Services	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh 19 registered places over 1 setting)	Welsh & English (62 registered places over 2 settings)	English & some bilingual elements (582 registered places over 15 settings)	English (579 registered places over 15 settings)	Other	
Maximum Capacity						
Full Day Nursery	0	46	413	439		898
Half Day Nursery(am)	0	0	229	153		382
Half Day Nursery(pm)	0	0	220	162		382
Before School	12	0	64	140		216
After School	0	0	73	177		250
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (am)	19	1	140	203		363

Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (pm)	19	2	96	158		275										
Wrap Around	0	1	120	180		301										
Crèche	0	0	15	99		114										
Lunch	12	0	109	174		295										
Other	0	0	0	118		118										
TOTAL MAXIMUM CAPACITY	62	49	1479	2003		3594										
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay – total																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Full Day Nursery	0	0	0	18	25	0	71	534	7	186	289	132				1262
Half Day Nursery(am)	0	0	0	0	2	0	165	161	0	104	131	101				664
Half Day Nursery(pm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	114	0	99	115	101				462
Before School	8	0	0	0	0	0	9	28	0	111	109	105				370
After School	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	47	0	147	178	113				501
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (am)	12	6	1	9	8	0	79	69	0	132	158	99				573
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (pm)	12	7	0	6	10	0	63	28	0	106	126	99				457
Wrap Around	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	117	1	141	198	106				585
Lunch	12	0	0	0	0	0	24	40	1	117	131	99				424
Crèche	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	99	99	99				316
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	99	99				297
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING	44	13	1	33	45	0	482	1157	9	1341	1633	1153				5911

Annex 2 shows that the number of children accessing childcare on a full time, part time and ad hoc basis within all childcare provisions at Full Day Care exceeds the number of places available.

The majority of places available term time are through Full Day Nursery, Half Day Nursery (am and pm) and morning Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin. However the majority of children are accessing services through Full Day Care, Half Day Nursery am, Wrap Around, Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin am and After School. Therefore proposing that a larger number of children are accessing part time childcare. The majority of places being accessed are within English medium settings.

297 children accessed 'other' English medium services, however the information provided by the SASS does not categorize the other provisions.

Data provided by the SASS identified that there are a maximum capacity of 545 childcare places distributed over a number of childcare provisions within the Blaenavon area. This can be compared to 95 registered childcare places over two settings. Attendance records submitted by the childcare providers reveal that 28% of these places are taken up. Therefore suggesting there are numerous vacancies. Please note that the maximum capacity numbers will exceed the actual number of places available at any one time. Please see Vacancies below for further information.

The majority of Welsh Medium places are accessed through Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin both am and pm sessions within the Pontypool area. 41% of these are accessed through full time places.

A total of 936 children within Pontypool access Full Day Care delivered through English & bilingual elements on a full time, part time and ad hoc basis. This is compared to 323 children accessing childcare through the medium of English.

91% of Full Day Nursery Places are distributed equally over English & bilingual elements and English Medium settings within Cwmbran and a total of 1128 children access this childcare through full time, part time and an ad hoc basis.

There are a total of 186 bilingual childcare places in Cwmbran with a 712 children accessing through full time, part time and ad hoc basis. 86% of these children access bilingual childcare on a part time basis and predominantly access a full day nursery.

School holidays

Figure 29 shows the capacity of childcare and attendance during school holidays.

Figure 29. Capacity of places and attendance school holidays SASS data 2016.

	Language of Provision															
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English			Other			TOTAL			
Maximum Capacity of Childcare during School Holidays	0 places		46 places over 1 setting		421 registered places over 15 settings		452 registered places over 15 settings			0 places			919			
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Summer Holiday				14	24	0	34	316	3	144	272	137				944
October Half Term				13	26	0	25	157	60	133	156	117				687
Christmas Holiday				15	28	0	28	191	4	115	187	116				684
February Half Term				17	28	0	21	223	5	131	158	116				699
Easter Holiday				18	30	0	25	300	5	132	197	118				825
May Half Term				17	29	0	24	241	5	132	175	111				734
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING				94	165	0	157	1428	82	787	1145	715				4573

Data from the SASS reveals that there are 919 registered childcare places available during school holidays. This is a significant reduction compared to the maximum capacity places available during term time. This may be due to a number of sessional childcare providers such as Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin operating during a term time basis only. However the number of children still accessing childcare during the school holidays is relatively high. A total of 4573 children were reported to have accessed childcare during the school holidays, therefore only displaying an overall 23% reduction in the number of children attending.

There are no registered Welsh medium places during the school holidays.

The majority of children accessed a part time childcare place during the school holidays, with a significant number of children (1428) accessing an English & some bilingual elements setting.

Information abstracted from the SASS indicated that the majority of places available during School Holidays are within the Pontypool area (626) compared to Cwmbran (510) and Blaenavon (65). The majority of these places are within English Medium settings. Attendance records displayed in Annex 2 reveal that a significant number of children attended childcare during the school holidays at childcare based in the Pontypool area. However the information abstracted from the SASS to populate this section (Annex 2) does not inform which childcare provisions the children access.

Vacancies and Waiting lists

Figure 30 references vacancy information submitted by full day care settings on the SASS. The table demonstrates that despite high part time attendance figures across all childcare provisions in full day care, childcare providers report a number of full time vacancies available.

Figure 30. Vacancies SASS data 2016

Services	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Full Day Nursery		70	349 (over 7 settings)*	60 over 5 settings		479
Half Day Nursery(am)			173	81 (one setting)		254
Half Day Nursery(pm)		2	192	148 (one setting)		342
Before School	4		13	27		44
After School			6	128		134
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (am)		8	115	128		251
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin (pm)		20	84	124		228
Wrap Around			49	11		60
Lunch			39	47		86
Crèche			0	0		0

Holiday Provision (am)			0	6		6
Holiday Provision (pm)			0	6		6
Other				0		0
TOTAL	4	100	1020	766		1890

The majority of all vacancies are predominantly within English medium settings, while Welsh provisions report lower vacancy places. However, the number of places in both Welsh Medium and Bilingual settings are relatively lower in comparison. One English & some bilingual elements setting in particular reports 80 full time vacancies. It might be considered that due to high levels of vacancies some childcare providers may have misconstrued the information that was required. Some childcare providers did not report any vacancies, so again the information presented must not be valued as a true reflection for the number of vacancies within Torfaen.

Annex 2 shows that the majority of vacancies reported during term time and school holidays are within full day nurseries, and half day nurseries (am and pm), however high levels of vacancies are also reported in both morning and afternoon Playgroup / Meithrin.

Vacancies are more prevalent in the Pontypool area with a total of 993 childcare places available. The majority of these places are reported within English & bilingual element full day nursery, half day nursery am and pm sessions and English medium morning and afternoon Playgroup / Meithrin settings.

Only 2 childcare places on waiting lists are reported for Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin morning sessions within the Cwmbran area during Spring and Autumn terms. No other settings reported waiting lists.

Age range of children

Figure 31 from Annex 2 shows the distribution of Full Day Care settings geographically who provide care for the following age groups. Please note not all childcare settings identified age groups for all provisions offered and the summary below is based on the limited responses detailed within the SASS data.

Figure 31. Age range of children SASS data 2016

Age Ranges	Total Number of Full Day Care per Area											
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements			English		
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Under 12 months		0				1		4	4	1	2	
12-18 months		0				1		4	4	1	2	
19-23 months		0				1		4	4	1	2	
2 years		1				2		8	6	2	4	
3 years		1				2		8	7	2	5	
4 years		1				2		8	7	2	5	
5 years		1				0		5	5	2	3	
5-7 years		0				0		3	4	2	2	
8 years								3		2	2	
8-11		0				0		2	2	2	1	
12 years								2	2	1	1	
12-14		0				0		0	0	0	0	
15-17		0				0		0	0	0	0	
TOTAL		3 age groups				9 age groups		51 age groups	45 age groups	18 age groups	29 over 5 settings	

		over 1 setting				over 2 settings		over 8 settings	over 7 settings	over 2 settings		
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- Welsh Medium Full Day Care childcare is available only for children aged 2 - 5 years at one childcare setting within the Pontypool area.
- Bilingual childcare is available for children aged under 12 months to 4 years at two childcare settings within the Cwmbran area.
- There is a large number of full day care settings who provide care for 3 - 4 year olds (25 respectively) and 2 year olds (23). Please note that many childcare providers indicate that they provide care for more than one age group, therefore these may have been duplicated in the totals.
- There are 6 full day care settings that provide childcare for 12 year olds, however there are no childcare settings that provide care for 12 - 17 year olds.

Annex 2 shows that there are higher attendance levels for 3 year olds geographically and through all language categories during term time. A total of 377 3 year old children are indicated to be attending full day care settings during term time. This can be compared to a further 366 2 year olds and 287 4 year olds also accessing the same childcare. Lower attendance levels are reported for children aged 12 months and under, however the majority of children accessing childcare for this age group do so within the Pontypool area.

Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

Term Time

Please note that not all childcare providers who completed the SASS submitted opening hours. Therefore the information below is a summary of the data collated and should not represent an overview of opening times within full day care.

During term time Welsh Medium full day care is only available in Pontypool between the hours of 08.30am - 15.15pm. It can be acknowledged that this does not constitute as full day care opening hours and demonstrates how the SASS data is flawed in identifying childcare settings that provide childcare on a full day care basis. However please also note that childcare provided in this area is not consistent Monday - Friday and is predominately available during the morning sessions.

Opening hours between the two childcare settings identified in Blaenavon open from 7.30am and close at 6.00pm Monday to Friday (however only one setting reported on the closing hours).

Opening times of full day care settings in the Pontypool area vary with the majority of settings reporting half day sessions times between 08.00am- 1.00pm and 1.00pm – 6pm, rather than 8.00am – 6.00pm. However it can be assumed that these sessions are providing full day care other than half day sessions.

There are only two day care settings within the Pontypool area that opens before 8.00am (7.45am) and one English Medium setting closes after 6.00pm (6.15pm).

Bilingual childcare within the Cwmbran area is available between 8.00am – 6.00pm, however only one setting out of two reported opening times.

There are 6 full day care settings within the Cwmbran area that opening at 7.30am Monday – Friday, none are available after 6.00pm.

Length of sessions during school holidays

Figure 32 shows the number of childcare providers who offer full day care during school holidays

Figure 32. Length of sessions school holidays SASS 2016

	Length of Sessions		Summer Holidays	October Half Term	Christmas Holidays	February Half Term	Easter Holidays	May Half Term
	Start	Finish						
Welsh			No places available during school holidays					
Welsh & English	08.00	13.00	1*	1	1	1	1	1
	13.00	18.00	1	1	1	1	1	1
English & some bilingual elements	08.00	13.00	3	3	3	3	3	3 Pontypool only
	08.30	17.30	1	1	1	1	1	1
	08.30	13.00	1	1	1	1	1	1
	13.00	17.30	1	1	1	1	1	1
	13.00	18.00	1	1	1	1	1	1
	07.45	13.00	1	1	1	1	1	1

*only 1 out of 2 settings for Welsh and English indicated opening times

There are no Welsh Medium, English or other full day care available during school holidays, however there is Bilingual childcare available during 08.00am – 6.00pm during school holidays. Please note that this childcare provider did not report on the number of weeks open, therefore it cannot be assumed that this provision is available throughout the year.

3 childcare providers report that they offer sessional care between the hours of 8.00am-1.00pm during school holidays, however the number that offer care between 1.00pm – 5.30pm/6.00pm is reduced. Therefore the information provided by the SASS does not indicate a conclusive summary of opening hours during school holidays. This is further suggested by the responses in Annex 2 for the number of weeks open during school holidays. Only 3 English & some bilingual settings stated weeks open, yet 2 settings populated opening times. Therefore it could be considered that 5 settings are providing a service during October, February, Easter and May Half Terms. 3 full day care settings detailed the number of weeks open during Christmas, however 4 populated opening times. Again this may suggest that 4 settings are opening during the Christmas period.

Range of charges – Full Day Care

Average costs for Full Day Care are calculated by the information submitted within the SASS data. The below summary details each childcare provision offered within a full day care setting. Please note that multiple settings either reported hourly or full day care rates, therefore the averages may not provide an accurate summary for full day care costs within Torfaen.

- Average costs for Full Day Nursery is £21.07 based on 17 responses
- Average Half day nursery am is £14.79 based on 14 responses
- Average Half Day Nursery pm is £14.51 based on 14 responses
- Average Before School costs £4.52 based on 10 responses
- Average After School costs £7.42 based on 11 responses
- Average Wrap Around costs £8.14 based on 18 responses
- Average Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin am costs £5.22 based on 12 responses
- Average Playgroup / Cylch Meithrin pm costs £5.26 based on 8 responses
- Average Creche costs £5.86 based on 3 responses
- Average Holiday Am costs £17.12 based on 7 responses
- Average Holiday PM costs £15.42 based on 6 responses

18 full day care settings within Torfaen all offer sibling discounts. These range from 5 - 10% for full time siblings, 10 - 20% sibling discount, 5% for sibling full time and 5% for first sibling only. Other discounts included 10% discount for siblings receiving the same service and 5% for siblings attending 3 full days.

Range of charges by Geographical distribution

Figure 33 summarises the costs submitted to the SASS data for full day care. Please note that this is distributed by childcare provision and averages are a combination of hourly rates and full day costs. A number of childcare provider's submitted information on hourly or full day costs, therefore the summary may not provide an accurate report of childcare costs and where low figures are applied these can be assumed as per hourly costs.

Figure 33. Range of charges SASS data 2016

Full Day Care - average costs	Blaenavon	Pontypool			Cwmbran		
	English	Welsh	English & some bilingual	English	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English
Full Day Nursery	£37.63		£27.93	£30.00	£3.98	£8.39	£21.29
Half Day Nursery am	£22.15	£3.00	£17.33	£16.67	£5.60	£6.60	£15.60
Half Day nursery pm	£22.15		£16.58	£16.33	£5.60	£6.60	£15.64
Before school	£3.50		£5.50	£6.50		£3.00	£4.23
After School	£8.02		£8.50	£6.45		£8.00	£6.80
Wraparound	£16.86		£9.23	£11.84	£3.00	£9.83	£3.50
Playgroup / Cylch Methrin am		£8.50	£3.73	£4.33	£7.00	£7.50	£4.11
Playgroup / Cylch Methrin pm		£8.50	£3.79	£4.33	£7.00	£7.50	£2.80
Creche						£5.84	£6.50
Holiday provision am	£26.38		£14.93	£20.00			£14.34
Holiday provision am	£26.36		£14.59	£20.00			£2.40
other	£2.00 lunch			£2.50 lunch & £30 unspecified			£3.97 lunch

Number of places filled by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Figure 34 shows the number of children who have special educational needs or a disability accessing full day care as provided by the SASS data. Please note that the figure may be greater than specified.

Figure 34. No. of children with special educational needs SASS data 2016.

Geographical Distribution	Total Number of Children with Special Educational Needs or Disability				
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other
Area 1				2	
Area 2	2		9	3	
Area 3		6	21	45 (30 identified at 1 setting)	
TOTAL	2	6	30	50	

A total of 88 children are accessing a childcare place within a registered full day care setting. Annex 2 shows that a number of children have clinical diagnoses or are awaiting formal assessments.

Speech, language and communication difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties and specific learning (e.g. dyslexia, ADHD, Dyspraxia) are the most common statement/awaiting statement. However due to the nature of the SASS data, it can be only assumed the number of children collate to the categories chosen. Therefore this is not conclusive as some children may have multiple conditions. Other statements/awaiting formal assessments recorded included Brain Tumour, Allergies, Downs Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy.

Number of Welsh language places filled

Annex 2 shows that 58 children aged between 2 - 4 years accessed a Welsh Medium Place within the Pontypool area. The information submitted was collated as part of the SASS data which required providers to report of attendance figures during July 2016. No children accessed Welsh Medium full day care during School holiday, however 80 children aged under 12 months – 4 years accessed Bilingual full day care during term time within the Cwmbran Area. A further 40 children for the same age group accessed Bilingual childcare during the school holidays. It is unknown if these were the same children accessing childcare during both term time and school holidays.

6.2.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Due to the incomplete information provided by the SASS data a summary of strengths and weaknesses cannot be generalised as a true analysis of full day care provision in Torfaen. The below summary is based on the above analysis, however further investigation will be needed to validate these strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths

- 56% of full day care settings are full day nurseries
- 95% of full day care settings offer sibling discount
- Vacancies for children aged 12 months and under (based on attendance figures)
- 6 providers open from 7.30am
- Incidental Welsh is used in over 50% of all day care settings
- Full time places are available in Full Day Care settings (high number of childcare are accessing part time places)
- Waiting lists are predominantly low

Weaknesses

- The number of provisions exceeds the number of full day care settings as settings may provide more than one provision
- Welsh Medium childcare is only identified within a playgroup / cylch meithrin setting
- There are no Welsh Medium or Bilingual childcare places in the Blaenavon area
- Bilingual childcare is only available within Cwmbran settings
- Cost for Full Day Care are inconclusive for all areas in Torfaen
- Childcare places in Full Day Care are significantly lower during school holidays due to many providers only operating during term time. However, attendance levels school holidays remain relatively high, thus only creating a 23% reduction in the number of children attending overall
- Opening times are inconsistent
- Welsh Medium places are available during 08.30am – 3.15pm and is not consistent during Monday – Friday
- Attendance levels in Blaenavon are lower than the number of places available

6.3 Sessional Day Care

6.3.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council sought to report on the analysis of childcare within Torfaen based on data supplied by CSSIW during November 2016. Annexes supplied by Welsh Government are referenced per childcare type, however further reference is made where data is not comparable. Registered childcare providers were requested to complete a Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on behalf of CSSIW and the data was collected during July 2016. Torfaen County Borough has adhered to the requirements placed by Welsh Government, however the response rate from childcare providers was less than 90% and therefore the following analysis cannot be identified as a true indication of childcare within Torfaen. Reference will be made (where applicable) to demonstrate any abnormalities.

The analysis of Sessional Day Care is based on an SASS update from CSSIW during November 2017. The original data submitted indicated a higher number of providers, however the analysis is based on the update due to number of discrepancies being identified by other local authorities.

Torfaen County Borough Council contacted exempted (unregistered) childcare provisions based on the SASS templates, however no records were returned. Information compiled in this report is based on the registered childcare information submitted by the SASS and a comprehensive analysis of registered and unregistered childcare will be reported within the Action Plan. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Range of services provided

Information analysed in Annex 3 reveals that there are 3 Sessional Childcare Providers in Torfaen offering 6 different childcare provisions in the medium of English. These include;

- Lunch Club
- Wrap Around
- Morning Sessions only (x3)
- Afternoon Session only (x1)

The table below illustrates the types of services offered by language preference.

Figure 35. Types of Service per language preference SASS data 2016.

Services Provided	Language of Provision registered					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin				0		
Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin				0		
Lunch				1		1
Wrap Around				1		1
Other				3 Mornings Only 1 Afternoons Only		3 Mornings Only 1 Afternoons Only
TOTAL				6 provisions over 3 settings		6 provisions over 3 settings

Sessional Childcare is delivered exclusively through English Medium and within the Pontypool and Cwmbran area. No sessional childcare was identified by the SASS in the Blaenavon area.

Sessional childcare within the Pontypool area is provided by two childcare providers who offer Morning sessions only. The remaining sessional childcare provider is based within the Cwmbran area offering wraparound, lunch club and morning and afternoon sessions.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc)

There are a total of 64 registered childcare places distributed over 3 registered sessional childcare providers, however based on information submitted in the SASS childcare providers reported a maximum capacity of 123 childcare places mainly in morning and afternoon sessions.

Figure 36 shows the maximum capacity and the take up of places geographically during term time

Figure 36. Maximum capacity and places filled SASS data 2016.

Childcare Provision	Area 2			Area 3			TOTAL
	English			English			
Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin							
Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin							
Wrap Around				8			8
Lunch				3			3
Other	Mornings 16 x 2 Afternoon 16 x 2			Morning x 24 Afternoon x 24			112
TOTAL MAXIMUM CAPACITY	64			59			123
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin		0					
Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin		0					
Wrap Around		0		6			6
Lunch		0		2			2
Other		10 Mornings x2 9 Afternoons x2		12 x morning 10 afternoon	30 x morning 14 x afternoon		104
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING		38		30	44		112

A total of 112 children are accessing 3 sessional childcare provisions with the majority of places being taken part time at morning sessions within the Cwmbran area. This makes 91% of the total maximum capacity of places, therefore suggesting that there are vacancies within the settings.

A maximum of 32 childcare places based in the Pontypool area are identified by the SASS during school holidays, however the number of places taken are unspecified therefore the information cannot be used for analysis.

Vacancies and Waiting lists

The analysis of the number of children accessing registered sessional childcare predicts that some settings have vacancies based on their attendance records. Data abstracted from the SASS report in Annex 3 reveals there are a total of 21 vacancies (10 morning and 11 afternoon) distributed within the Pontypool area. No vacancies were specified within the Cwmbran area and no waiting lists were identified by all sessional childcare providers. Please note that this analysis is based on the information submitted by the SASS report and therefore does not imply all sessional childcare settings have current vacancies.

Age range of children

Figure 37 from Annex 3 shows the distribution of sessional childcare that provides care for the following age groups;

Figure 37. Age ranges SASS data 2016.

Age Ranges	Total Number Sessional Day Care providers per Area											
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English			Other		
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	
Under 12 months												
12-18 months												
19-23 months												
2 years								2	1			
3 years								2	1			
4 years									1			
5-7 Years												
8-11												
12-14												
15-17												
TOTAL								4	3			

Analysis of Annex 3 reveals that 100 % sessional childcare providers identified in the SASS report cater for children aged between 2 - 3 years and only one setting in the Cwmbran area up to the age of 4 years.

Analysis of Annex 3 shows that the majority of children accessing registered sessional childcare are 2 year olds located in the Pontypool area (34), a further 27 2 year olds access sessional childcare within Cwmbran.

The majority of 3 and 4 year olds attend a setting within the Cwmbran area.

Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

Analysis from Annex 3 reveals that during term time all 3 sessional childcare providers who responded to the SASS provide part time childcare sessions between 09.15am – 11.45am and 12.30pm-15.00pm Monday to Friday. All settings provide English Medium childcare with over half of these being within the Pontypool area.

Information provided from the SASS data shows there are is no sessional childcare during the school holidays.

Range of charges

Information abstracted from the SASS data revealed limited information about the sessional childcare costs. Only one setting within the Cwmbran area identified costs at £6.00 for morning and afternoon sessions. A further setting in the Pontypool area was identified as providing a Flying Start childcare, however this setting also provides payable childcare but no other costs were identified.

As a result the information provided by the SASS does not provide a conclusive summary on the range of charges for sessional childcare in Torfaen.

Number of places filled by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

The table below shows the number of children who have special educational needs or a disability accessing registered sessional childcare. Please note the figure may be greater than specified.

Figure 38. No of children with a special educational need SASS data 2016.

Geographical Distribution	Total Number of Children with Special Educational Needs or Disability				
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other
Area 1				Not specified	
Area 2				2	
Area 3					
TOTAL				2	

A total of 2 children within the Pontypool are accessing a sessional childcare setting. Annex 3 shows that both childcare settings within the Pontypool area acknowledge caring for children with clinical diagnoses or those who are awaiting formal assessments, however the number of children is not specified. The total number of children attending in the Cwmbran area are also unspecified. Types of special educational needs or disabilities identified by all settings include;

- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Hearing difficulties
- Learning difficulties (e.g. global development delay etc.)
- Emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Physical
- Awaiting Diagnosis for unspecified condition
- And Allergies

6.3.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Vacancies are available in the Pontypool area
- No waiting lists

Weaknesses

- Caters for children 2-3 only
- No sessional childcare identified in the Blaenavon area
- No. of places available during school holidays are inconclusive, however opening times confirm the settings are closed
- No vacancies were specified in the Cwmbran area
- Sessional childcare identified as English Medium only

6.4 Crèches

6.4.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Information on crèche facilities was identified in Full Day Care – Annex 1. The information populated in Annex 4 does not show a true reflection of the number of provisions and places available within Torfaen.

Analysis of Annex 4 is based on the information abstracted from the SASS data provided by CSSIW and the below information is for summary purposes only. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Range of services provided

There are a total of 2 registered crèche facilities within the Torfaen area, with one being provided within a full day care setting.

Figure 39 shows that both crèche facilities are based within the Cwmbran area and offer English & some bilingual elements and English Medium childcare.

Figure 39. Range of services SASS data 2016.

Childcare Type and Services	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Area 3						
Total Crèches			1	1		2
Services						
Operates Full Day	No opening times submitted					
Operates Mornings						
Operates Afternoons						
Holiday Provision						
Other						

Services offered by crèche facilities are unspecified.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc and vacancies)

There is a maximum of 31 full time childcare places available through the medium of English, however these places are based on the places offered in Full Day Care, therefore it cannot be determined whether the number of places equate those being offered within a crèche facility.

There are an additional 15 registered childcare places within an English and some bilingual elements crèche facility, therefore the maximum capacity of childcare places available is 46.

Annex 4 shows 54 children are accessing crèche facilities in full time, part time and ad-hoc places. 37 children access crèche within a English Medium full day care setting with 25% in full time places, 54% part time and 21% in ad-hoc places.

A total of 17 children access a part time place within an English with some bilingual elements setting.

During school holidays a maximum of 31 childcare places are available within an English medium setting, however these places have already been submitted in Full Day Care annex 1.

Figure 40 (Annex 4) shows that the number of children accessing a registered crèche far exceeds the number of children using childcare during school holidays.

Figure 40. Maximum capacity and attendance school holidays SASS data 2016.

	Language of Provision																
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements			English			Other			TOTAL	
Maximum Capacity of Childcare during School Holidays							0 term time only			31*						31	
	Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL	
Summer Holiday										9	23	10				42	
October Half Term										4	4	2				10	
Christmas Holiday										2	2	1				5	
February Half Term										3	4	2				9	
Easter Holiday										5	2	3				10	
May Half Term										6	4	1				11	
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING										29	39	19				87	

Children accessing a crèche facility during school holidays predominantly use this service on a part time basis during summer holidays (42 children).

Only 4 full time vacant childcare places are reported within an English Medium setting however as previously reported this information has already been accounted for in Annex1. No waiting lists are indicated on the SASS data for term time and school holidays.

6.5 Out of School Care

6.5.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council contacted exempted (unregistered) childcare provisions based on the SASS templates, however no records were returned. Information compiled in this report is based on the registered childcare information submitted by the SASS and a comprehensive analysis of registered and unregistered childcare will be reported within the Action Plan. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Range of services provided

Based on the information abstracted from the SASS report, there are a total of 4 registered English medium out of school care providers offering a total of 6 childcare provisions.

Figure 41 identifies the number of childcare provisions by language category.

Figure 41. Range of services per language category SASS data 2016.

Services Provided	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Before School				2		2
After School				3		3
Holiday Provision				1		1
Playscheme sessions						
Other						
TOTAL				6		6

75% of out of school providers offer afterschool clubs, with 50% also offering before school childcare, the majority of these are within the Pontypool area. Only one holiday childcare provision was identified from the SASS data within the Cwmbran area.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc)

There are a total of 64 before school childcare places exclusively within the Pontypool area. The majority of after school places are located within the Pontypool area (63) with a further 33 located within the Cwmbran area. All are delivered through English Medium during term time only.

Figure 42 shows the maximum capacity and the take up of places (Annex 5) during term time

Figure 42. Maximum capacity and attendance term time SASS data 2016.

Services	Language of Provision															
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English			Other			TOTAL			
Maximum Capacity																
Before School							64						64			
After School							97						97			
Playscheme sessions							2 *						2			
Other							0						0			
TOTAL MAXIMUM CAPACITY							163						163			
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Before School										25	25	0				50
After School										16	97	2				115
Playscheme sessions										0	0	0				0
Other										0	0	0				0

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING										41	122	2				165
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Please note that the SASS data indicates no playscheme provision, yet data in capacity suggests otherwise.

Take up of places indicate that there are vacancies within before school clubs in the Pontypool area. However attendance figures within after school clubs exceeds the maximum capacity available, with the majority of children (97) accessing this provision on a part time basis.

Geographically the attendance of children accessing childcare is greater within Cwmbran compared to Pontypool, however the maximum number of places available is lesser than those available in Pontypool. Therefore it cannot be determined if there is a shortfall of places within the Cwmbran area, or an excess of places within the Pontypool area.

Information abstracted from the SASS data indicates that during school holidays there is a maximum of 92 English medium childcare places within the Cwmbran area only. This creates a decrease of 71 childcare places during school holidays. However figure 43 below shows that the number of children accessing a registered out of school club during school holiday far exceeds the number of children using childcare during term time.

Figure 43. Maximum capacity and attendance school holidays SASS data 2016.

Services	Language of Provision															
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements			English			Other			TOTAL
Maximum Capacity of Childcare during School Holidays										92						92
Weekly Attendance/ Length of Stay																
	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	FT	PT	AH	TOTAL
Summer Holiday										14	84	0				98
October Half Term										14	71	0				85
Christmas Holiday												0				0
February Half Term										14	71	0				85
Easter Holiday										14	75	0				89

May Half Term										14	71	0				85
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING										70	372	0				442

84% of children access a part time childcare place during the school holidays. These are all delivered through the medium of Welsh.

Vacancies and Waiting lists

Based on the information submitted by registered out of school clubs for the SASS, it has been reported that a number of out of school provisions have vacancies over a number of provisions they provide. This confirms earlier proposals that there are vacancies based on the attendance levels. However due to an incomplete SASS report, it cannot be assumed that all out of school provisions have vacancies.

Annex 5 shows that there a total of 254 vacant childcare places within out of school childcare, these are distributed as follows;

- 37% vacant places in after school provision
- 36% vacant places in before school provision
- 27% vacant places in holiday provision

Information about capacity for childcare during school holidays within the Pontypool area is absent in the SASS data, however vacancy information reveals that 61% of vacant places are identified within the Pontypool area yet providers within the Pontypool area report no waiting lists. Therefore this may suggest that the information submitted was in error, or that childcare provider’s misinterpreted the information required. As a result, vacancy analysis geographically can be considered statically insignificant.

Age range of children

Figure 44 shows the distribution of out of school childcare who provide care for the following age groups.

Figure 44. Age ranges SASS data 2016.

Age Ranges	Total Number of Out of School Care providers per Area									
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English		Other	
	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3
3 years							0	1		
4 years							2	2		
5-7 years							2	2		
8-11							2	2		
12-14							1 (only up to 12)	1 (only up to 12)		
15-17										
TOTAL							2 providers for 7 age groups	2 providers for 8 age groups		

The below summary describes the total number of out of school clubs who provide care for the following age groups;

- There is only 1 out of school provision that caters for 3 year olds. This is based in the Cwmbran area.
- 100% of out of school providers who responded to the SASS offer care for children aged 4 years – 11 years.
- 2 providers offer care for children up to the age of 12 years
- There are no registered out of school care available for children aged 12 - 17 years

Information provided in Annex 5 shows that 3 years olds only attend the out of school provision during school holidays.

Analysis shows that children aged between 5 - 7 years and 8 – 11 years attend more out of school childcare during term.

88 children aged 5 - 7 years attended out of school childcare during term time compared to 44 in the school holidays, while 93 8 - 11 year olds attended during term time compared to 41 in school holidays. This does not support previous evidence that more children

attend holiday childcare, therefore the information can once again question whether some childcare providers have interpreted the SASS data incorrectly.

Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

Information provided by the SASS data and populated in Annex 5 reveals that 75% of out of school childcare providers, operate during half term. Please note that some childcare settings may provide more than one opening times.

Times open during term time include;

- 07.30am – 08.50am
- 08.00am – 09.00am
- 15.30pm – 17.30pm
- 15.15pm – 18.00pm
- 15.15pm – 17.30pm

Only one childcare provider offers a before school club before 8am and an after school club after 5.30pm Monday to Friday. This is located within the Pontypool area. Information based on the SASS indicated that there are no registered before school clubs within the Cwmbran area, and only one after school club operating 15.30pm – 17.30pm.

During school holidays two providers submitted opening times within the SASS data despite only one holiday club being identified in the previous analysis. Childcare provided by these services operate between the hours 08.00am – 18.00pm and 08.30am – 17.30pm.

The number of weeks open was not specified, however both settings provide care Monday to Friday during;

- Summer holidays
- October Half Term
- February Half Term
- Easter Holidays
- May Half Term (one setting operates Tuesday – Friday)

Range of charges by Geographical distribution

The table below shows the average costs for registered out of school provision by geographical area and language delivered. Please note that some childcare settings provided hourly and day rates, therefore the below information is an average based on the combined figures. Please note that the average costs may be greater or lesser than the true amount charged per session.

Figure 45. Range of charges SASS data 2016.

Out of school childcare	Pontypool	Cwmbran
	English	English
Before School Care	£2.00	£3.50
After School Care	£6.50	£3.57
Holiday Provision		£12.28

Average costs for Before School care is £2.75

Average costs for After School Care is £5.04

Average costs for Holiday provision is £12.28

Number of places filled by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

One child attending an out of school provision in the Pontypool area is identified of having a Special Educational Needs or Disability, however no further information on the type of clinical diagnosis/awaiting statement is supplied within the SASS data.

6.5.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Vacancy updates suggest possible places available in before school provision
- There is some out of school provision to cater for 12 - 14 year olds
- Only childcare setting in the Pontypool area provides out of school care before 8am and after 5.30pm, this can also be perceived as a weakness

Weaknesses

- Holiday club information is inconclusive
- Decrease of the total number of places available during holidays, however the number of places taken exceeds the number of places attended during term time
- Geographically attendance is greater in the Cwmbran area, however the maximum number of places is lesser than Pontypool. Therefore it cannot be determined if there is a shortfall of places in Cwmbran or an excess of places in Pontypool
- All out of school childcare provides care for 4 - 11 year olds only, with the exception of 1 catering for 12 - 14 years
- Only 1 out of school provision in the Cwmbran area provides care for 3 year olds
- Costs for out of school childcare is inconclusive
- No Welsh medium out of school provision

6.6 Open Access Play Provision

6.6.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council delivered a total of 40 Playschemes during the summer of 2016. These were co-ordinated and run by Torfaen Play Service and in working partnership with Cwmbran Community Council. The below analysis does not make reference to Annex 6 due to the complexity of the information required and unavailable data. Reference will be made to the number of places available, and language category by geographical area. Attendance figures were not available at the time of publication. The analysis will make reference to open access Playschemes delivered during February – October 2016.

Torfaen Play Service delivered a total 40 Playschemes during the summer of 2016.

- 37 of the Playschemes were for children ages 5 - 12 years
- 2 of the Playschemes were for children aged 8 - 12 years
- 1 Playscheme for children/young people aged 12 - 18 years with disabilities

Torfaen Play Service also deliver 20 Play Clubs (including respite care on weekends)

34 Playschemes were accessible to children as per the Torfaen Open Access flyer 2016. However in addition to this additional Playschemes at Cwmbran Stadium for children/young people aged 12 - 18 years with complex needs, and at Pontypool Active Living Centre for respite play/short breaks session for children aged 5 - 12 years with complex and profound disabilities. A maximum of 180 childcare places are available at these sessions, however access to this are by referral only and are separately analysed in this section.

The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service, and will make reference to the 34 open access Playschemes available as per Torfaen Open Access Summer Playscheme flyer.

Figure 46 shows the number of playschemes delivered by language category during summer 2016.

Figure 46. No. of provision per language preference. TCBC

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Total Open Access Play Provision (Registered)	2		32			34
TOTAL	2		32			34

A total of 3330 childcare places were available during Summer 2016 within open access provisions. Figure 47 shows the number of places available geographically

Figure 47. No of childcare places geographically TCBC

Childcare Type and Services	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Area 1 Blaenavon						
Total Open Access Play Provision			240			240
Area 2 Pontypool						
Total Open Access Play Provision			840			840
Area 3 Cwmbran						

Total Open Access Play Provision	180		2070			2250
TOTAL	180		3150			3330

In addition to this a further 30 spaces for specialist respite/short break support were available for children with complex needs or a disability aged 12+ years, delivered in the Cwmbran area. A further 30 places for the same support was available for children aged 5 – 12 years with complex and profound disabilities delivered in the Pontypool area. Both provisions are referral only.

Please note that the total places available are for some age groups only. Figure 48 shows the number of places available at Summer Playschemes for children aged between 5 – 8 years, 5 - 12 years and 8 - 12 year olds. Children who attend these playschemes can also request 1-1 support.

Figure 48. No. of places per age group geographically TCBC

Childcare Type and Services	Language of Provision														TOTAL
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements			English			Other / Respite / Short Breaks		
Age groups	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	12+ yrs	5-12 yrs	
Area 1 Blaenavon								240							240
Area 2 Pontypool								840						30*	840
Area 3 Cwmbran		180					50	1520	500				30*		2250
TOTAL		180					50	2600	500						3330

*not included in total number of open access places.

78% of places available in summer open access playschemes are for children aged 5 - 12 years. The majority of these places being delivered in Cwmbran based provisions.

Open access Playschemes being delivered through the medium of Welsh are available only in the Cwmbran area. However all Summer Playschemes use some bilingual elements.

Open Access Summer playschemes were available Monday – Friday during Monday 1st August – Thursday 25th August 2016 between the hours of 10.00am - 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 3.00pm. The following is a summary of Playschemes opening times;

- 17 Open Access Summer Playschemes opened during 10.00am – 12.00pm. Predominately the morning sessions were delivered within the Cwmbran area (11), a further 5 within Pontypool and 1 in the Blaenavon area
- 17 Open Access Summer Playschemes opened during 13.00pm – 15.00pm. Again the majority of afternoon playschemes are within Cwmbran (11), 5 in Pontypool and 1 in Blaenavon
- Blaenavon has both a morning and an afternoon open access playscheme for children aged between 5 - 12 years
- Welsh medium places are available during 10.0am – 12.00pm and 1.00pm – 3.00pm for 5 - 12 year olds in Cwmbran, however the number of places available are lower than other provisions
- There are no provisions for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Blaenavon area

During February, June and October Half Term 2016, a further 10 open access playschemes were delivered. Figure 49 demonstrates those by language category.

Figure 49. Half Term Open Access Playschemes TCBC

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Total Open Access Play Provision (Registered)	1		9			10
TOTAL	1		9			10

A total of 890 childcare places were available during February, June and October Half Term 2016 within open access provisions. Figure 50 shows the number of places available geographically

Figure 50. No. of places geographically half term TCBC

Childcare Type and Services	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Area 1 Blaenavon						
Total Open Access Play Provision			240			240
Area 2 Pontypool						
Total Open Access Play Provision			340			340
Area 3 Cwmbran						
Total Open Access Play Provision	60		250			310
TOTAL	60		830			890

In addition to this a further 150 spaces for specialist respite/short break support were available for children with complex needs aged between 12 - 18 years delivered by two provisions in the Cwmbran area. A further 30 places for the same support was available for children aged 5 – 12 years with complex and profound disabilities delivered in the Pontypool area. All provisions are referral only.

Please note that the total places available are for some age groups only. Figure 51 below shows the number of places available at Open Access Playschemes during Half Term for children aged between 5 - 8years, 5 - 12 years and 8 - 12 year olds. Children who attend these playschemes can also request 1-1 support.

Figure 51. No of places per age group half term TCBC

Childcare Type and Services	Language of Provision														TOTAL
	Welsh			Welsh & English			English & some bilingual elements			English			Other / Respite / Short Breaks		
Age groups	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	5-8	5-12	8-12	12-18 yrs	5-11 yrs	
Area 1 Blaenavon								240							240
Area 2 Pontypool								340						30*	340
Area 3 Cwmbran		60					50	60	140				150*		310
TOTAL		60					50	640	140						890

*not included in total number of open access places – referral only.

72% of places available in half term open access playschemes are for children aged 5 - 12 years. The majority of these places being delivered in Pontypool based provisions.

Open access Playschemes being delivered through the medium of Welsh are available only in the Cwmbran area during half term. However all Summer Playschemes use some bilingual elements.

Half term open playschemes were available for 3 days between the hours of 10.00am - 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 3.00pm. The following is a summary of Playschemes opening times;

- 5 Open Access Half Term Playschemes opened during 10.00am – 12.00pm. The morning sessions were distributed equally between the Cwmbran and Pontypool area and a further morning provision in in the Blaenavon area
- 5 Open Access Half Term Playschemes opened during 13.00pm – 15.00pm. Again the majority of afternoon playschemes are equally distributed in the Cwmbran and Pontypool area and a further afternoon provision in Blaeanavon
- Blaeanavon has both a morning and an afternoon open access playscheme for children aged between 5 - 12 years

- Welsh medium places are available during afternoons only (1.00pm – 3.00pm) for 5 - 12 year olds in Cwmbran, however the number of places available are lower than other provisions
- There is no provision for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Blaenavon area

Open access Play Clubs - Term Time

During term time Torfaen Play Service deliver 17 afterschool play clubs. In addition to this a further two inclusion sessions are run on Saturdays and Sundays for children aged 8 - 18 years, these are referral only.

The following analysis is a summary of information submitted to Torfaen Family Information Service, the maximum number of places was not available at the time of publication. Please note that open access play clubs are free to the children attending, however some charges may apply and have been indicated in the below analysis. All Play Clubs are delivered through the medium of English with some bilingual elements.

Figure 52 Open access Play Clubs - Term Time - Area 1 Blaenavon TCBC

	Length of Sessions		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Start	Finish							
English & some bilingual elements	5-11 years								
	3.15pm	4.15pm	1 setting						

Figure 53 Open access Play Clubs - Term Time - Area 2 Pontypool TCBC

	Length of Sessions		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Start	Finish							
English &	5 - 12 years								
	4.00pm	5.15pm		1 setting					
	4.00pm	5.30pm		1 setting			1 setting		
	4.30pm	6.00pm	1 setting		1 setting				

Figure 54 Open access Play Clubs - Term Time - Area 3 Cwmbran

	Length of Sessions		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Start	Finish							
English & some bilingual elements	5 - 12 years								
	3.30pm	5.30pm	1 setting £1 fee						
	3.45pm	5.15pm			1 setting				
	4.00pm	5.15pm	1 setting						
	4.00pm	5.30pm			1 setting	1 setting*	2 settings		
	4.30pm	6.00pm				1 setting			
	5 - 11 years								
	4.30pm	6.00pm				1 setting 50p fee			
	8+ years referral only								
	3.30pm	5.30pm		1 setting £6 fee			1 setting £6.00 fee		

Please note this is an outreach service based over various courts

6.6.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Large number of open access playschemes and after school play clubs available for children aged 5 - 12 years
- Playschemes available for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Cwmbran (for children aged 12+ years) and Pontypool area (for children aged 5 - 12 years)
- Children who require 1:1 support can access summer playschemes and open access play clubs
- All open access summer playschemes use incidental welsh

Weaknesses

- The number of children attending open access playschemes geographically was unattainable, therefore accurate take up of places cannot be determined
- The loss of closed access summer playschemes significantly reduced the number of places available during 09.30am – 4.30pm
- Reduced number of places available in the Blaeanavon area compared to Cwmbran and Pontypool
- Welsh provision is only available in the Cwmbran area
- 78% of open access summer playschemes are delivered within the Cwmbran area
- There are no provisions for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Blaeanavon area

6.7 Nanny

6.7.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Torfaen County Borough Council sought to report on the analysis of childcare within Torfaen based on data supplied by CSSIW during November 2016. Annexes supplied by Welsh Government are referenced per childcare type, however further reference is made where data is not comparable. Registered childcare providers were requested to complete a Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on behalf of CSSIW and the data was collected during July 2016. Torfaen County Borough has adhered to the requirements placed by Welsh Government, however the response rate from childcare providers was less than 90% and therefore the following analysis cannot be identified as a true indication of childcare within Torfaen. Reference will be made (where applicable) to demonstrate any abnormalities.

Information abstracted from the SASS data revealed no registered homebased childcare (nanny) within Torfaen. Further investigation will be needed to advise whether there is a demand for Nannies within the Torfaen area.

7. Understanding the Needs of Parents/ Carers

7.1 Overview of Consultation

This section presents findings from the Parent / Carer survey conducted by Torfaen County Borough Council as part of the 2017 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. The summary of the information contained in this report was collated by Torfaen County Borough Council and analysed by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Methodology

The Parent/Carer Questionnaire (Annex 17) was developed in accordance to Childcare Statutory Guidance 2016 and templates set by Welsh Government. The Parent /Carer survey questionnaire was published online at www.forms.torfaen.gov.uk/CSA2016/survey.html with 15,000 flyers detailing the link to the survey (Annex 18) being distributed to parents via schools within Torfaen. An additional 3,000 were distributed alongside the Welsh Preference Survey to residences of families with children under 3 years of age. 2,000 flyers and 500 printed copies of the survey were also distributed to 133 childcare providers to be issued to families who use their settings.

The Parent/Carer survey was promoted via Torfaen Family Information Service and Torfaen County Borough Councils social media pages, and outreach engagement through Flying Start parenting sessions.

A total of 274 respondents provided valid questionnaire responses. This is a lower response rate than for the Parent/Carer questionnaire for the 2014 CSA (which received 953 responses). It is worth noting that during the publication time of the Parent / Carer survey there were a number of both Welsh Government and Torfaen County Borough Council active consultations published at the same time. These included the Well-being Assessment, Talk Childcare – the offer for Wales, Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, Consultations around Post 16 provision in Torfaen, Schools Preference Survey and SEWC Schools Attendance Survey. It can be considered that due to the large number of consultations targeting families living in Torfaen, and within the same period of time, may have affected the response rate for the Parent / Carer survey.

This section analyses the findings from the 274 valid questionnaire responses received from parents/carers. It examines;

- The profile of parents/carers who responded to the survey
- Range of services being used
- Number and type of child places used (full time, part time, ad-hoc)
- Number of places required for children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability
- Number of places used by language category
- Age range of children using/ not using childcare
- Reasons for using/ not using childcare
- Accessibility/ availability and affordability of childcare provision
- Parental views on the childcare on offer

The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Overview

Status	Number
Parent/ Carer in work (not expecting a baby)	69.7% (191)
Parent/ Carer in education or training (not expecting a baby)	1.5% (4)
Parent/ Carer seeking work (not expecting a baby)	2.6% (7)
Parent/ Carer seeking education or training (not expecting a baby)	0.7%(2)
Expecting or on maternity/ paternity leave with <u>first</u> child	2.9%(8)
Adopting <u>first</u> child	0
Parent/ Carer expecting or on maternity/ paternity leave with <u>additional children</u>	7.7%(21)

Adopting or on adoption leave with <u>additional children</u>	0
Parent/ Carer not in work	12.8%(35)
Parent/ Carer not in education or training	2.2%(6)

Do you use childcare for any of your children?	Number
Yes I am expecting a baby and use childcare for all/some of my children and intend to use childcare for my unborn child in the future	<u>8</u>
Yes I use childcare for all of my children	<u>98</u>
Yes I use childcare for some of my children	<u>26</u>
No, I don't use childcare	<u>134</u>

Respondents by annual household income

Average Annual Household Income	Number
£0-£10,000	9.4%(25)
£10,001-£20,000	13.9% (37)
£20,001-£30,000	17.3%(46)
£30,001-£40,000	15.8%(42)
£40,001-£50,000	11.7%(31)
£50,001-£60,000	6.0%(16)
£60,001-£70,000	4.9%(13)
£70,000+ per annum	5.6%(15)
<u>Prefer not to say</u>	15.4%(41)

Respondents by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number
White	264
Mixed/ Multiple Ethnic Groups	1
Asian/ Asian British	1
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	0
Other Ethnic Group	6
Prefer not to say	2

Language of Respondents (primary language spoken at home)

Language	Number
Welsh only	0.4%(1)
English only	88.9%(240)
Bilingual	8.5%(23)
Other languages	2.2%(6)
	Other languages identified as Portuguese(1), Czech (1), Polish (2), Bilingual in English and Polish(1) Unknown (1)

Respondents' children by age group

Age	Number
Under 12 months	42
12-18 months	30
19-23 months	27
2 years	55
3 years	40
4 years	40
5-7 years	111
8-11 years	72
12-14 years	32
15-17 years	19
N/A	0

Respondents with children who have special educational needs or disability

Special Educational Needs/ Disability	Number
Speech and language	21
Specific learning (dyslexia)	4
Hearing difficulties	7
Learning difficulties	7
Visual difficulties	4
Emotional and behavioural difficulties	12
Physical	3
Medical condition	12
Other (specify)	0
N/A	0

Data from the Parent/Carer Survey reveals that out of the 274 responses 132 use childcare and intend to use childcare do subsequent children. 134 parents who responded to the survey don't use childcare. 8 responses are unaccounted for.

7.2. Current Use of Childcare

7.2.1. Analysis of Current Use of Childcare Provision

Responses from the Parent / Carer survey revealed that families in Torfaen are using a variety of childcare for children aged 0 - 17 years.

Range of services being used

The main type of childcare being used as reported by parent/carers who completed the parent carer survey are;

- Family and/or friends (68)
- Full time day care within a nursery (49),
- After school clubs (38)
- Before school clubs (Breakfast) (32)

There are several different types of services being accessed at childcare settings, the most frequently used services at these settings include;

Day nursery – Full day care (49)
After School (15)
Before School (12)

Childminder - Full day care (19)
After School (12)
Before School (11)

Out of school care – Afterschool (38)
Before School /Breakfast Club (32)
Holiday childcare throughout the day (22)

Sessional Day Care - Playgroup/ Meithrin Am (10)

Wraparound a part time Early Education placement (6)
Playgroup/Meithrin Pm (4)

Crèches – Full day care (5)
Mornings only (3)

Open Access play provision – Holiday Playscheme (3)
Playscheme sessions (3)
Before school (3)

Nanny – Full day care, half day care am & pm, after/before school – (1)

The main childcare type used for children under the age of 2 years consists of full day care within a day nursery. Family and friends are the second choice for parents using childcare for this age group.

The majority of parents using childcare for 2 year olds use a combination of full day care and family friends, however over half of the parents using this form of childcare use it on a part time basis.

Families with children aged 3 and 4 years old use family and friends for childcare and a combination of full day care and sessional day care. Childcare is used on a part time basis.

Further use of childcare as abstracted by the Parent/Carer survey reveals that other forms of childcare include;

- Babysitters
- Childcare that varies due to shift work
- Part time childcare
- Other forms of childcare due to school provisions being full
- Summer sport club facilities

Number of places used by language category during term time and school holidays

During term time parent/carers who use childcare for their child/children predominantly use an English or a Welsh and English Medium nursery. A total of 38 parent / carers reported a nursery as the main childcare provider with 16 accessing an English Medium setting and 15 accessing a Welsh and English Medium setting.

Figure 55 shows the number of children accessing childcare during term time and by language category from partial data abstracted from Annex 8

Figure 55. No of children accessing childcare during term time. Parent /Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)	Total children
Childminder		2	2	11		15
Nursery	0	17	5	17		39
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (am)	2	1	2	4		9
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (pm)		2		3		5
Part time Early Education in school				1		1
Flying Start Place			1	2		3
Crèche				2		2
After School Club	5	3		15	2	25
Breakfast Club	1	2	2	13		18
Free Breakfast Club		1	1	5		7
Playscheme				1		1

Open Access						
Nanny						
Other (please specify)						4
Total	8	28	13	74	2	129

*Please note that some language totals do not match the total number of childcare services identified due to incompleteness by parents on this section of the Parent / Carer survey. Other includes Family, Family and Friends (x2) and Grandparents

There are a total of 129 children currently accessing childcare based on the Parent / Carer survey, with 57% of these accessing English Medium settings. Only 8% of these childcare access Welsh Medium, and predominantly accessing an afterschool club.

Figure 56 shows the number of children accessing childcare during school holidays and by language category from partial data abstracted from Annex 8

Figure 56. No. of children accessing childcare during school holidays. Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)	Total children
Childminder	1		2	7		10
Nursery	0	5	5	16		26
Flying Start Place						
Crèche				1		1
Playscheme	3			5		8
Open Access		1				1
Nanny						
Holiday Club		1	1	8		10
Other (please specify)						
Total	4	7	8	37		56

Partial data abstracted from Annex 8 reveals that during term time 88% of childcare used is within Torfaen. Figures 57, 58 & 59 show the distribution of children attending childcare geographically term time and school holidays. Please note not all parents reported on the number of children accessing settings therefore the total number of children geographically does not match the total number of children as per figures 55 and 56.

Term time

Figure 57 Blaenavon - No.of children attending childcare term time - Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder		2			
Nursery				1	
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (am)					
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (pm)					
Part time Early Education in school					
Flying Start Place					
Crèche					
After School Club				1	

Breakfast Club				1	
Free Breakfast Club					
Playscheme					
Open Access					
Nanny					
Other (please specify)	Friends and Family				

Figure 58 Pontypool - No.of children attending childcare term time – Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder			1	4	
Nursery		6	2	3	
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (am)		1	1		
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (pm)				1	
Part time Early					

Education in school					
Flying Start Place					
Crèche				1	
After School Club		2	2		
Breakfast Club		1	1	1	
Free Breakfast Club		1			
Playscheme				1	
Open Access					
Nanny					
Other (please specify)	Playscheme, friends family, grandparents and wraparound				

Figure 59 Cwmbran - No. of children attending childcare term time – Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder			1	6	
Nursery		9	1	9	
Cylch Meithrin/	2		1	4	

Playgroup (am)					
Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (pm)		2		2	
Part time Early Education in school					
Flying Start Place			1	1	
Crèche					
After School Club	4	1		9	
Breakfast Club		1	1	9	
Free Breakfast Club			1	3	
Playscheme					
Open Access					
Nanny					
Other (please specify)	Grandparents and Family (those using Cylch Meithin/Playgroup morning and afternoon).				

School holidays

Figure 60 Area 1 Blaenavon No. of children attending Childcare – Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder					
Nursery				1	
Flying Start Place					
Crèche					
Playscheme					
Open Access					
Nanny					
Holiday Club					
Other (please specify)					

Figure 61 Area 2 Pontypool. No. of children attending Childcare - Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder			1	3	
Nursery		2	1	3	
Flying Start Place					
Crèche				1	

Playscheme				1	
Open Access		1			
Nanny					
Holiday Club			1	2	
Other (please specify)	Grandparents for those using crèche and playscheme				

Figure 62 Area 3 Cwmbran. No. of children attending Childcare - Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other Languages (specify)
Childminder	1		1	4	
Nursery		3	2	10	
Flying Start Place					
Crèche					
Playscheme	3			4	
Open Access					
Nanny					
Holiday Club		1		4	
Other (please specify)	Friends (in addition to childminder and playscheme)				

It is apparent that the take up of childcare places is relatively low, however on reflection this could be a result due to the reduced number in respondents to the Parent / Carer survey. Therefore the presented data cannot be considered statistically significant and should not be governed as a true indication of the take up of childcare places in Torfaen.

Number of places required for children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Parents / carers who have an intention of using future childcare for children that require specialist care due to a disability is relatively low. However low response figures in the section does not provide conclusive evidence and would require further investigation to establish a demand within this context.

Age range of children using/ not using childcare

The majority of parents who responded to the survey have children aged between 5 - 7 years old (118)

Predominantly children aged between 5 - 7 years (56) 8 – 11 years (46), 12 - 14 years (30) and Under 12 months old (28) do not use childcare however children aged 5 - 7 years (22) is identified as the highest age group accessing childcare followed by, 2 years (21) and 3 year olds (19). The current use of childcare within the 2 year olds category can be identified as being one of the main reasons for using childcare (please see 'reasons for using childcare' below).

Although the response rate for parent/carers using part time childcare for children aged between 8 - 17 years is low, a number of different childcare provisions have been identified. The use of friends and/or family, out of school care and childminders are commonly used for children aged between 8 - 11years, while children aged 12 - 14 years predominantly stay with friends and/or family or access out of school care.

One parent/carer reported using childcare for their 15 - 17 year old, however the childcare provision was not stated.

Parents / carers who intend to use childcare predominantly have children under 2 years and under (30). The majority of parent/carers have children under 12 months (11) and between 12 - 18months (7).

Reasons for using/ not using childcare

A total of 141 reasons for using childcare was identified by parent/carers who completed this section. The main reasons parent / carers use childcare based on the parent carer survey are;

- To go to work (110)
- Social or learning benefits (13)
- To take advantage of Flying Start Entitlement (8)
- I am studying (4)
- To take advantage of Early Years Education Entitlement (3)
- I do unpaid voluntary work (2)
- I am seeking training or education opportunities (1)

A total of 238 reasons for not using childcare for some or all of their children were described by parent/carers, this includes 134 parent/carers who identified that they use no form of childcare. The main reasons for not using childcare include;

- Partner/family/friends looking after children (64)
- Childcare is too expensive (57)
- I am/my partner is a stay at home parent and I have no need for childcare (41)
- My children are old enough to look after themselves (15)
- There is no childcare available at the times that I need it (15)

Parent/Carers gave further reasons for why they do not use childcare and these are separated geographically;

Blaenavon

- Don't trust them.

Pontypool

- I make myself available for work only when I have family available to take care of my children.
- I don't require childcare
- My 4 year old is in school and I am maternity leave so don't need after school care.
- I am still in maternity leave
- I work part time and always home before and after school
- My son goes to Playgroup some mornings
- My child is in school
- Currently on maternity leave will use when return to work
- I am self-employed so can stay at home with my child. I use my parents when I do occasionally need
- I am a childminder

Cwmbran

- Work flexible when child in nursery
- I work from home x2
- They are in full time school. The little one goes in for 2½ hours 2X pw I can't afford any more
- I have no need until I find a suitable job once my child is in proper schooling
- I have reduced my working hours to manage childcare and use annual leave in school holidays
- My children don't like going to childcare provision like playschemes or afterschool clubs
- Work around school hours
- I don't like the idea of childcare
- Partner on sick leave, will return to work
- I work school hours, so childcare is not needed.
- I had them I will look after them

Parents who currently do not use childcare for some or all of their children recorded a number of preferences for future childcare requirements when needed. Most importance qualities included;

- Affordable childcare (121)
- Good quality childcare (117)
- Childcare close to home (89)
- Childcare close to child's school & childcare afterschool/during holidays

Accessibility/ availability and affordability of childcare provision

Parents currently not accessing childcare identified childcare before 8am (8), after 7pm (7) and during weekends (2) as the times when childcare is not available to them.

Parent/Carers using childcare rated the following top improvements for the accessibility/availability to childcare during term time;

1. Affordable
2. Available before 8am
3. Available before school 7.30am - 9am
4. After School 3.30pm - 6pm
5. No improvements needed
6. Available after 6pm

Parent/Carers using childcare rated the following top improvements for the accessibility/availability to childcare during School Holidays;

1. Affordable
2. Available before 8am
3. Full Day Care 8am - 6pm
4. Available between 7.30am – 9am
5. Available between 3.30pm - 6pm
6. No improvements needed / Available after 6pm

Although the data supplied is relatively low and statically insignificant, a number of parents identified the need for childcare over weekends during term time and school holidays. Furthermore, despite the low response the availability of Welsh Medium and Bilingual childcare is marginally preferred as an improvement during term time.

Parental views on the childcare on offer

Parent/carers who responded to the survey and who use childcare for some/all of their children reported that;

- They are satisfied with the quality of childcare during term time (118)
- Childcare is too expensive (113)
- Childcare caters for child/children's needs (104)
- Childcare is located well within Torfaen (94)

Parent/carers reported that they are mainly satisfied with the quality of their childcare during term time (118), during the school holidays (77) and that they believe there is a good choice of childcare in the Torfaen (63), however 43 parent/carers disagreed that there is a good choice of childcare within Torfaen.

Parent/carers views about the choice in the types of childcare available and services offered is marginally equal. 54 parent/carers agree that there is little choice in the types of childcare available compared to 45 parent/carers who believe there is.

The majority of parent/carers using childcare reported that childcare is located well within Torfaen however 40% believe that childcare isn't available at the time required.

70% of parent/carers who use childcare for some or all of their children believe that there is sufficient childcare for the age of their child/children.

The majority of 129 parent/carers who responded to the section about Welsh Medium childcare believe there is enough within Torfaen (34%), however 30% are unsure and 17% reported it is not applicable to them. Overall 80% of parent/carers using childcare believe there is enough childcare in the language of their choice.

50% of parent/carers who use childcare (based on 126 who completed this statement) do not want their child/children to attend more registered childcare (an increase in hours already spent), compared to a third who would like their child/children to attend more registered childcare. Interestingly the majority of parent/carers using childcare report that they would rather use childcare than family and/or friends.

Parent/carers using childcare shows a minority of instances where childcare arrangements break down or are unreliable and that childcare is not a barrier to them accessing employment or training.

The majority of parent/carers using childcare, know where to find about information on childcare, however parent/carers were divided about knowledge on the financial assistance for childcare costs.

Parent / cares had the opportunity to comment on other childcare they use for their child/children and any other comments they wished to make. The following responses were abstracted from the Parent / Carer Survey and separated geographically;

Pontypool

- I am a single parent working full time. I pay private nursery until my children can attend Flying Start (Pontypool)
- School provided service for breakfast club is full-surely this should be for all and not the few
- Not enough childcare suitable for children with Autism.
- Torfaen breakfast club is good but afterschool club is private, expensive and unreliable
- I have 3 children both my eldest are in school and my youngest currently attends nursery privately
- We have a private childminder her service is wonderful
- Would be great if there would be extra childcare for unexpected situation etc. as illness, late pick up

Cwmbran

- Childcare is a constant battle due to lack of facilities available & their limited hours
- There is no full day provision for school age children, I take unpaid leave at a detriment to my job
- Would be great if there would be extra childcare for unexpected situation etc. as illness, late pick up
- Need Breakfast Club
- Only 1 Welsh Medium nursery in my area - very costly however no choice!
- Family are not local so rely heavily upon childcare provision in Torfaen, especially during holidays
- You get what you pay for - if you don't pay it's impossible to work more than a few hours each day

7.2.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- 70% of parent / carers think there is sufficient childcare for the age of their children
- The majority of parent / carers using childcare report that they would rather use childcare than family and/or friends
- Satisfaction in the quality of childcare supersedes the need for affordable childcare for parent / carers currently using childcare

Weaknesses

- Possible demand for weekend care
- Time gaps that prevent families from using childcare
- Reported part-time use of childcare (combined with part time use of family or/and friends)
- Affordable childcare is the main barrier for families not currently using childcare
- Potential age gap in the take up of places (the majority of children accessing childcare are aged 5 - 7 years)

7.3. Demand for Childcare Provision

7.3.1. Analysis of Demand for Childcare Provision

Future use of childcare

Parents / carers or those who are on maternity/paternity leave completed a section within the Parent / Carer survey to examine their future intentions of using childcare. This also included parents-to-be, those who are adopting/on adoption leave and parents who may use childcare and are intending to use childcare for subsequent children.

Figure 63 shows partial data abstracted from Annex 9 indicating the future demand for childcare provision in Torfaen

Figure 63. Future demand for childcare provision. Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	*TOTAL
Childminder		1		3		4
Full Day Care		15		32		47
Sessional Day Care				2		2
Crèches				2		2
Out of School Care		7		9		16
Open Access Play Provision				3		3
Nanny						0

Family and/or friends		3		4		7
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Please note that several parents failed to complete this section of the survey, therefore the below summary is based on the number of respondents who began to indicate future childcare use. Therefore the summary below may differ than the figures identified in figure 63.

Parents/ carers who participated in the survey identified that they intend to use Full Day (48) care with the majority choosing full day nursery (17). The second most preferred choice for future childcare use included Out of School Care (20), with the majority favouring before school club/breakfast club (6) and holiday childcare throughout the day. Other intended choices include After school (5) and Playscheme sessions (3). There is a low intentional demand for sessional childcare that wraps around a part of an Early Education placement e.g. playgroup or school or nursery (2) or open access play provision (before school 1, after school 2, holiday playscheme 2 and playscheme sessions 2). No parents who participated in the survey indicated that they would use a nanny.

Figure 64 below shows the future use of childcare geographically. Please note that the total number of respondents does not correlate to the total number of respondents who completed this section of the Parent/Survey. A number of parent/carers failed to identify the language preference for intended childcare use, therefore these figures have been excluded from the below tables. The below tables are based on 71 future childcare requirements geographically, however these totals may not reflect an inclusive demand for childcare in Torfaen.

Figure 64. Future use of childcare geographically Area 1 & Area 2. Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare Type	Language of Provision											
	Welsh		Welsh & English		English & some bilingual elements		English		Other		TOTAL	
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2
Childminder								1			0	1
Full Day Care		2		5			2	14			2	21
Sessional Day Care								0			0	0
Crèches							1	1			1	1
Out of School Care				1				4			0	5
Open Access Play Provision								3			0	3
Nanny											0	0
Family and/or friends				3				3			0	6

Figure 65. Future use of childcare geographically Area 3. Parent / Carer Survey

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
	Area 3	Area 3	Area 3	Area 3	Area 3	Area 3
Childminder		2		2		4
Full Day Care		7		16		23
Sessional Day Care						
Crèches						
Out of School Care		6		5		11
Open Access Play Provision						
Nanny						
Family and/or friends				1		1

Future childcare use is dependent on the necessities of employment for the parent/carers who responded to this section.

Age range of children for whom childcare is required

It is understood that intended childcare for children under the age of 12 months will predominantly access a full time childcare place within a full day care setting. Children between the aged of 12 – 18 months will potentially access a part-time place within a full day care setting and some use through friends and family.

Intended childcare use for children between 19 months and 2 years consists of a combination of Full Day Care, Sessional Day Care, Family and/or friends however this is statistically low and equally distributed on a potential full, part time and ad hoc basis.

Intended full time sessional childcare is the main requirement for children aged 3 years old, however no childcare was identified for children aged 4 years old, 8 - 11 year olds, 12 - 14 year olds and 15 - 17 year olds. Parent / carers who have children 5 - 7 years old will potentially use Out of School care on a part time basis.

Figure 66 shows the age range and the number for children requiring childcare geographically

Figure 66. No.of children requiring childcare geographically. Parent / Carer Survey

Age of children	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Under 12 months		5	5
12-18 months		5	2
19-23 months		1	1
2 years	2	2	
3 years		3	3
5-7 years		3	1

Please note that the number of places required on a full time, part time and ad-hoc basis is not retrievable from the Parent / Carer survey for those who intend to use childcare. The template created by Welsh Government does not specify this question in Section C (Intended Childcare Provision) therefore the data does not collate to that information required in Annex 9. Please refer to current use of childcare for the number of places currently being accessed.

A potential 20 parent/ carers will be using intended childcare for the following reasons, these are shown geographically in figure 67.

Figure 67. Reasons for future childcare use. Parent / Carer Survey

Reasons for using childcare	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
I go/will be going to work	1	8	6
I am/will be seeking work		2	
I am/will be seeking training or education opportunities			1
Social or learning benefits for my child		1	
To take advantage of Flying Start Entitlement	1		

Opening times required by those who do not currently use childcare, or those who use childcare for some children and intend to use childcare for subsequent children

Parent / carers who have a future requirement for childcare predominately would like to access childcare between 08.00am – 18.00pm Monday – Tuesday. Data also shows an indicator for the same times during Wednesday - Friday but that of a lesser value.

Childcare during 12.00pm - 13.00pm (18) and between 09.00am - 12.00pm (14) are the second and third most favourable times that parent/cares would require childcare. Childcare after 18.00pm was also identified as a requirement for future childcare use.

Language requirements for families potentially using childcare would prefer to use English medium settings (14) and Welsh and English medium settings. There are no requirements for Welsh Medium or any other language.

Parent/ carers who would potentially be using childcare would do so if they could access the following requirements;

- Childcare for 12 year old attending comprehensive
- Childcare during the daytime
- Between the hours 4pm - 6pm after school, plus (very importantly) during school holidays 8am - 4pm
- Childcare during school holidays

Number of places required by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Two parent/carers identified within the Cwmbran and Blaeanavon area will require childcare due to their child/children having a special educational need or who require specialist care due to a disability. Only one parent specified that childcare will be required for their 2 year old Monday – Friday in the Blaenavon area.

Parent/carers who intend to use childcare in the near future predominantly require childcare local to their home. Figure 68 shows the demand for childcare locally and as per language requirement.

Figure 68. Demand for childcare geographically. Parent / Carer Survey.

Childcare required	Welsh			Welsh & English			English with some bilingual elements			English		
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 2	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Home					5	3				2	2	6
Work/Study											2 childcare required in both Cwmbran and Pontypool town centre	
Near child's school						1 Ysgol Cwmraeg (need breakfast club)					2 Llantarnam Primary	

7.3.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- The demand for childcare is relatively low for the Blaenavon area, this supports the supply analysis that indicated there is sufficient childcare
- No requirements for Welsh Medium or any other language

Weaknesses

- Several parent/carers failed to complete this section of the survey
- Time gaps for childcare after 6pm

7.4. Barriers to Childcare Provision

7.4.1. Barriers experienced by specific target groups

This section presents an analysis of the findings from the focus groups undertaken with parents and carers in Torfaen regarding childcare sufficiency and barriers identified from the Parent Carer Consultation. Examples of barriers experienced by specific target groups can also be found in the consultation with Jobcentre Plus, Stakeholders and Core Aim One in Section 2.4. Key findings from consultation with stakeholder groups are detailed in section 14.

Torfaen Family Information Service has undertaken this research and produced this summary.

Focus group methodology

Focus groups were conducted with parents/carers in Torfaen. The focus groups were designed to gather their views and experiences of using childcare and on how childcare may be improved in Torfaen.

A total of 4 focus groups took place between November 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 involving 19 parents/carers. These were targeted at specific groups of parent/carers based on Welsh Government Statutory Guidance 2016 and collected the views of:

- Working Parents
- Parents seeking work or training opportunities
- Unemployed Households
- Low income families
- Lone parent families
- Families from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Families with children who have special educational needs, or a disability

- Any other specific target groups relevant to the Local Authority area

Torfaen Family Information Service drew upon services currently offered by the Council and also by partner organisations in order to reach parents from the above specific groups with a view to them taking part in focus groups.

A focus group of lone parents were accessed via the DWP Break Through Project at their weekly coffee morning based in Cwmbran. This focus group also combined the category of Parents seeking work or training opportunities. Their children were also in attendance.

Several attempts were made during November 2016 to conduct focus group with Working Families within the Blaenavon area, however due to childcare issues outside of working hours, they were unable to commit to an evening group.

Parents who attended a Torfaen County Borough Council parenting programme were also invited to give their views about childcare. It was identified by the parents that all children were of school age and not using childcare. Therefore the group reported that was not beneficial to participate and declined the invitation.

A focus group was arranged during December 2016 at a forum for families with children who have special educational needs, or a disability. However due to a premises change the forum was cancelled. In order to consult with the same parents, questions in Annex 20 were sent via Torfaen Play Service to the members of the forum. In addition to this Tafarn Newydd were also contacted to distribute the same questions for families accessing services at the centre.

A group of working parents were accessed via the Torfaen Childcare Team, friends and family were also invited to participate.

Multiple attempts were made to consult with families from ethnic minority backgrounds by accessing a basic skills class delivered by Torfaen Adult and Community Learning and during February 2017 a focus group was conducted with Syrian families with English as a second language and engaging in Adult Education. This was delivered within the Cwmbran area.

All focus groups were facilitated by Torfaen Family Information Service. The focus group template was put together by the Childcare Team. A copy of the full focus group results and template is included in Appendix 20 & 21.

A focus group was arranged for unemployed households at a Flying Start Childcare provision within the Pontypool area (which also included parent with low incomes), however due to multiple illnesses the session was cancelled. The one parent in attendance was encouraged to complete the parent carer survey online.

For the purposes of the report, it was considered appropriate to consult with those who have an interest in childcare. The Choices in Childcare Course is a 5 week programme which summarises careers in childcare. Those who complete the Choices in Childcare Course have the opportunity to apply for an NVQ in Childcare all which are funded by Torfaen County Borough Council. A focus group was delivered with this group during November 2016, a crèche facility was provided for their children.

Torfaen Family Information Service attempted to gain the views on childcare from faith groups. Letters detailed in Appendix 19 were sent inviting parishes to take part in a structured focus group. Out of the 41 parishes contacted only 5 parishes responded. Unfortunately those who responded were not in a position to take part. Further investigation will be needed to investigate is childcare is a barrier for this specific group.

Torfaen Family Information Service consulted with the DWP Parents, Childcare and Employment programme (PaCE) to identify low income families. Participants on the PaCE project were sent a letter in Annex 22 inviting them to a focus group during January. No responses were received.

Focus Group results

Overview of Current childcare usage

Parents/carers were asked to work in pairs to find out about and then introduce their partner. Information on group members identified some current childcare usage. Figure 69 shows the most popular choice of childcare used is Playgroup and Creche, however a total of 8 parents report that they use no childcare.

Figure 69. Summary of current childcare use. Focus Groups

Type of childcare used	Working parents-Childcare team	Lone parents/parents seeking work or training opportunities-Break Through	Persons with an interest in childcare-Choices in Childcare	Syrian Families with English as a second language ESOL	Families with children who have special educational needs, or a disability	Low income families – PaCE
Family or friends	2				No responses received	No responses received
Childminder						
Day nursery						
Playgroup	2	2				
Cylch meithrin						
Nursery class in school				1		
Crèche				4		
Reception				1		
Nanny or au pair						
Breakfast Club	2					
Before school club						
After school club	1		1			
Nursery wraparound						
Holiday club						
Playscheme						
No childcare used	1	3	4*			

*1 parent not currently using childcare, but child attending Flying Start in January 2017. One member of the group has no children.

Overview of Improvement suggestions

Figure 70. Improvement suggestions to childcare. Focus Groups

Type of Improvement	Working parents-Childcare team	Lone parents/parents seeking work or training opportunities-Break Through	Persons with an interest in childcare-Choices in Childcare	Families with children who have special educational needs, or a disability	Low income families – PaCE
Cost / Affordability	1	5	5	No responses received	No responses received
Opening Times	1	0	3		
Other Suggestion		2	1		
Flexibility	1	0	3		
Loaction of Childcare		3	3		
Childcare that's caters for my child's specific needs		1	3		
Availability of childcare places.	2	0			

The focus group with Syrian Families did not participate in the improvement activity, however parents revealed that they choose childcare mainly based on location.

Full results for all focus groups can be found in Appendix 21.

7.4.2. Working Parents – Results from Working Parents focus group Wednesday 4th January 2016

A total of 5 working parents were consulted with and invited to join the Childcare Team for Torfaen County Borough Council. Friends and family were also invited to the focus group. 3 parents resided within the Cwmbran area, and 2 parents within the Pontypool area.

Reasons for using or not using childcare

The majority of working parents with children under the age of 13 use a combination of family and formal childcare.

Main reasons for using childcare include;

- Lack of support from family
- Socialisation at 2 years and remaining at same setting for education placement
- Ability to start work on time
- Continued employment

Main reasons for not using childcare

- Children are self sufficient
- Confusion over multiple childcare options

The locality of childcare was a main discussion among the working parents, with parents choosing childcare within catchment areas of preferred school choice, and on the same site as employment.

One parent identified that using childcare local to the school may help with a smooth transition into reception, following a previous transition difficulty with eldest child who used childcare outside of the area. Another parent expressed the benefits of having childcare on the same site as their employment, allowing them to be able to attend work with ease. It was considered that locality was a main factor when choosing suitable childcare.

Reference was made to highlight current childcare that can cater for children's specific needs. A number of parents identified having children with allergies and medical conditions which require childcare settings to be vigilant and cater to their individual needs. Those that were reported gave positive feedback about the services received at their childcare setting.

Reasons for not using childcare other than breakfast provisions within the school, identified a lack of knowledge in choosing suitable childcare. One parent expressed her concerns in not being able to choose suitable childcare due to too many options, and the lack of availability to cater for all children at the same time.

Improvement Suggestions

The availability of places within childcare settings was the main improvement suggestions amongst working parents, with the majority of parents encountering difficulties when seeking a childminder who can cater for more than one child. Also recommendations given by others to use suitable childminders are usually unattainable due to lack of vacancies.

Opening times for breakfast clubs was identified as an improvement, with a suggestion of opening at 8.00am opposed to 8.15am. It was also identified that within one area of Cwmbran there is not a state nursery and wrap around facilities. The childcare provider used offers education funded places, however one parent expressed a preference to have a wraparound facility to compliment the playgroup session. Alternative childcare that may cater to this need was acknowledged, however, the desire to remain within catchment area for transitional outcomes outweighed the decision.

Another parent identified problems with wrap around facilities that resulted changing childcare settings. It was considered that if the original childcare setting offered wrap around facilities they would have remained there.

The flexibility of childcare was also identified as an improvement suggestion, with one parent expressing concerns about paying for childcare that is not required during the school holidays. As a teacher, one parent expressed how childcare is not needed within the summer holidays, but in order to retain a childcare place at a setting payment is still required. Even though the parent has great knowledge that the setting is a business and payment depicts this, it was considered that a lack of flexibility has refrained use for childcare that would benefit the family. It was also discussed that afterschool clubs charge for the whole session, regardless of the time spent at the setting. Again, this has hindered the use of childcare.

Parent Carer Survey - Working Parents

Responses from the Parent / Carer survey identified 191 working parents (68%) of these, 79 working parents do not use childcare. The main reason for 41 respondents is that 'My partner/family/friends look after my children'. Another 31 state that childcare is too expensive and 10 stated 'my children are old enough to look after themselves'. A further 10 stated that there was no childcare available at the times that they needed it. Other reasons for not using childcare were recorded by a further 10 respondents and include;

- I work from home
- Work flexibly when child is in nursery
- I make myself available for work only when I have family available to take care of my children
- I don't require childcare
- I work from home
- Work around school hours
- I don't like the idea of childcare
- Partner on sick leave, will return to work
- I work school hours, so childcare is not needed
- I am self-employed so can stay at home with my child. I use my parents when I do occasionally need

The most important factors of childcare for this group are that the childcare is good quality (58 responses) and affordable, 58 responses. A further 40 working parents identified that childcare needed to be closer to home.

7.4.3 Parents seeking work or training opportunities and Lone Parents

A total of 5 parents were consulted with at the Break Through Project coffee morning, and all parents resided within the Cwmbran area. 2 parents reported that they use a playgroup for their child, while 3 parents reported that they are not currently using childcare. Reasons for not using childcare during the first task identified that some children were in full time school.

Reasons for using or not using childcare

The majority of parents identified that they do not currently need childcare due to unemployment, however they equally acknowledged that they will need childcare in the near future but expressed that cost of childcare is a problem.

Even though cost was identified as a reason for not using childcare, one parent expressed that childcare can help with development stating it will bring them on “leaps and bounds”. However concerns about trust and the benefits to the child were also identified.

Reasons for using childcare further identified the need for recordings within the childcare setting. It was considered that if an incident happened within the setting the parent would want to request the footage to view how it happened.

Improvement suggestions

Cost/ Affordability was the main improvement suggestion for all lone parents. The majority of parents agree that the financial help towards childcare is not enough and that’s the majority of wages earned will be spent on childcare. Therefore suggesting that financially there will be no improvements within the family.

The location of childcare is the second improvement suggestion with parents raising concerns about traveling on public transport. It was considered a main decision when thinking about employment due to leaving the residence, traveling to the childcare setting and then traveling to work. The cost of using the public transport was also identified as being a barrier, therefore it was suggested that childcare would need to be within walking distance. Parents further addressed the need to rely on family and friends.

Other Suggestion was the third main area for improvement with multiple parents discussing the ability to trust the childcare settings. Parents expressed a reluctance to use wrap around services due to not knowing who would be transporting the children from one setting to the other. Other concerns were raised about the qualifications of staff within the settings, and not knowing about their individual experiences. This coincided with discussions about trust.

Childcare that caters for my child's specific needs was the fourth improvement suggestion. Parents expressed a need to know childcare policies such as dealing with bad behaviour and whether the policies are universal or unique to each setting. Again, the request to know more about the childcare staff would influence their decision into using childcare, as it was considered that some workers are not parents and their role is only an employment opportunity.

Availability of childcare places, Opening Times and Flexibility were not selected.

Parent / Carer Survey

Responses from the Parent / Carer survey identified 9 parents seeking work, training opportunities and education. 8 parents do not use childcare with the majority being a stay at home parent / or partner being a stay at home parent. In this category 3 parents identify childcare to be too expensive, no other reasons were identified.

Affordable childcare and Good Quality childcare are the main considerations for using childcare (8 responses) along with childcare closer to home (6 responses) and childcare close to child's school (5 responses).

(i) Unemployed Households

As we did not specifically ask this question these results are not accurate. The results are taken from 14 respondents identified in the Parent /Carer survey who are not in work and who are living alone. Therefore there may be more that we are not aware of who are also living with a partner and both are unemployed. Please also see results from the focus group with parents seeking work or training opportunities. The results from this focus group included unemployed households

From the data provided from the Parent /Carer survey 12 parents do not use childcare due to childcare being too expensive (6 responses) and that they are a stay at home parent (6 responses). Other suggestions included problems with transport (1 response) and that they have no need to find childcare until suitable employment is found when child is of school age. One parent further identified not wanting to use childcare in favour of looking after their children themselves.

Affordable and good quality childcare are the main reasons for wanting to use childcare (9 responses respectively). The requirements of childcare close to home (8 responses) and flexible payment options (6 responses) were also identified as being a main reason for potentially using childcare.

7.4.4 Low Income Families

Parent / Carer survey

Low income in this context is defined as under £20,000 per annum. There are a total of 62 respondents who fit into this category based on the Parent /Carer survey. 38 of these respondents do not use childcare, 18 are a stay at home parent / partner is a stay at home parent, 17 believe childcare is too expensive and 10 have parent/family/friends to look after their children. Other reasons for not using childcare included lack of trust, being on maternity leave, and children who do not like attending childcare settings such as after school clubs and Playschemes.

Good quality and affordable childcare are identified as the main reason for considering use of childcare (31 responses respectively). However in this category a number of other reasons were identified, these being; childcare located close to home (26 responses), close to child's school (18), play opportunities (16), flexible payments (16), after school/during holidays (15), Flexible hours Ad Hoc (13), social opportunities (9) provision for additional learning needs/disability (6), Childcare that caters for my child's cultural/additional needs (5). Language preference is marginally close among this category with the need for Welsh Medium (4 responses), Welsh and English (7), and English childcare (7).

7.4.5 Families from ethnic minority backgrounds

Data from the Parent / Carer survey identified 1 parent not using childcare from an undefined ethnic group. Reasons for not using childcare include my partner/family/friends look after my children. Reasons for using childcare include the need for childcare located close to the child's school, childcare that caters for my child's cultural/additional needs, and Welsh and English Medium.

7.4.6 Families with children who have special educational needs, or a disability

Parent / Carer survey

Information from the Parent /Carer survey identified that;

17 do not use childcare

11 I am/my partner is a stay at home parent and I have no need for childcare

6 Childcare is too expensive

3 My partner/family/friends look after my children

1 There is no childcare available at the times that I need it

1 There is no childcare that can cater for my child's/children's additional needs

1 There is no wrap around or after school club at my child/children's school

1 I work from home

3 choice of different childcare choice

14 Good quality childcare

16 Affordable childcare

1 Transport / pick up

13 close to home

12 close to child's school

- 3 close to work
- 6 play opportunities
- 10 after school / during holidays
- 7 Provision for additional learning needs/disability

7.4.7 Any other specific target groups relevant to the Local Authority area – People with and interest in Childcare

A total of 5 student attended, 3 parents not currently using childcare, however one will accessing Flying Start childcare January 2017. One parent identified that they were not using childcare, but the children accessed after school clubs.

Reasons for using or not using childcare

Two parents reported a fondness for using a childcare when their eldest children were younger. However one parent expressed a lack of knowledge about what childcare options are now available for her two youngest children. It was considered that finding different types of provision to cater for each child was a main barrier.

Trust was further identified as a main concern when returning to work. However another parent described positive experiences with using a private day nursery that catered to her son's medical conditions. This was further appreciated that the childcare provider did not exclude her child and made the effort but believed that not all settings except [children] with additional needs. This parent expressed that she would be using childcare for her youngest for speech and interaction benefits.

Improvement suggestions

Cost/ Affordability was the main improvement suggestion for the students who attended the focus group. The group discussed the cost of childcare when in employment and the detrimental affect it has on the income received within the home. The group expressed a desire to return to work, however the cost of childcare would hinder an attempt to secure employment. Parents expressed their concerns that the implications of this would result in the being labelled 'lazy'. It was considered that there is a need to initially help with the cost of childcare until employment is secure and stable enough to continue the payments independently.

The cost of a childcare setting versus the quality of the setting was discussed, with parents believing that the cost of a childcare setting is a direct result of their quality standard.

It was also identified that when receiving benefits there isn't any help towards the cost of childcare. It can be suggested that despite the parent choosing childcare to help her child's development, she was unable to continue due to her benefit payments not being able to cover the costs.

Opening times, Location, Flexibility and Childcare that caters to my child's specific needs were the second improvement suggestion within the group. If employment is sought within a school it was considered that childcare will be needed before 8am, and that a childminder is the only childcare provider able to offer this service.

Location was considered important when choosing childcare, especially when parents have children of different ages and require multiple childcare settings. One parent discussed an occasion where she couldn't pursue higher education due to the location of her childcare, and how the travel demands would not permit the parent to attend university on time. It was considered that if childcare is closer to home, this is hugely beneficial to the family.

Flexibility improvements suggested the need to cater shift work, however a number of parents are aware of wraparound facilities. Improvement suggestions include the need for more ad hoc availability outside of normal daily/weekly attendance due to employment with agencies. There is a fear of not being able to fulfil certain job roles due to lack of flexibility.

Parents discussed mixed knowledge about childcare that caters to my child's specific needs. One parent whose child has a medical condition previously spoke highly about her experiences when using childcare, but suggested that improvements need to be made when transitioning into school. Concerns were raised that there aren't enough staff trained and that there is limited funding to help with issues being identified before school admissions.

Parents also discussed the changes to childcare (later identified as changes to schools), with one parent expressing her concern for 'super schools' being created in Torfaen. It was considered that the introduction of larger schools would mean that some pupils are lost within the system. One parent described that she removed her son from school and applied for another as he needs weren't being met. This concerned the parent as she has previous experiences within schools and felt that others need to have a particular passion to have a role in childcare, something she felt was missing exclusively to schools she has visited and been employed at.

7.4.8 Any other specific target groups relevant to the Local Authority area

Faith groups – Torfaen County Borough Council attempted to gain the views on childcare from Faith groups. Letters detailed in Appendix 19 were sent from Torfaen Family Information Service inviting parishes to take part in a structured focus group. In total 41 parishes were contacted. However only 5 parishes responded. Unfortunately those who responded were not in a position to take part. Further investigation will be needed to investigate if childcare is a barrier for this specific group.

7.4.8 ESOL families

A total of 4 parent / carers attended including an interpreter. Due to the nature of the focus group, some sections of template were re-evaluated for the ease of the families and the interpreter. It was identified that one child was currently using a nursery, however this was further clarified as accessing reception within a school.

Reasons for using or not using childcare

Parent/carers responses about using childcare reflected on the need for the children to access services to enhance their adjustment to living in Wales. Parent/carers also described using childcare to help their children develop social skills and enhance their language, some parent/carers also reported that they have made new friends with other parents at the school.

All parent/carers who use the crèche facilities based at the English class commented on the benefits. Prior to the crèche all the children had attended the class with their parents. This made teaching the class incredibly difficult due to a total of 9 children also being in attendance. The tutor further reported that the parents were unable to concentrate and due to the childcare difficulties some parents had not been attending the course. Once the crèche facility was available, parent/carers felt that the children were safe and secure and continued their studies.

Families reported that they were satisfied with the childcare they were using as their child/children were also satisfied, and that they used the crèche in order to complete their studies. Parent/carers further reported that they use nursery to help their child/children develop.

One parent/carer reported that their daughter has specific needs and these are supported within a school environment. However it was discussed that the daughter receives speech therapy and occasionally finds it hard to make new friends due to her specific needs. Reflecting on this, the parent/carer addressed that the school was aiding her daughter and they were all working together to provide support.

Improvement suggestions

Families were unable to participate in Task 3, and alternative questions were asked by the interpreter. These included;

- How/Why do you choose a particular type of childcare?
- Do you choose childcare based on location; availability of places; or the cost?
- Do they like the flexibility / the opening times?

The majority of parent/carers choose childcare due to its location. Suggestions included the need for childcare closer to home, childcare located within the same school as siblings, and the need for childcare to be located in the same building as their studies.

The cost of childcare is not applicable to the families participating in the focus group as the crèche facility is provided by Adult and Community Learning.

8. Early Years Part Time Education (Foundation Phase) and Flying Start Provision

8.1. Analysis of Early Years Part Time Education (Foundation Phase)

Number of childcare providers (broken down under Full Day Care/ Nursery, Sessional Day Care, Childminder) funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education

Data regarding the take up and availability of funded nursery education places for three and four years olds is supplied by Torfaen County Borough Council during November 2016. Profiling information, such as ethnicity and disability, regarding children applying for funded nursery education is currently not collected. Children taking up funded nursery education in Torfaen are aged three or four at the beginning of the term that they start their nursery education. For the purpose of this assessment, all figures refer to places available and taken up during the Autumn 15, Spring 16, Summer 16 and September 16. Data for admissions in January 2017 and April 2017 was not available during the time of the collation for this section.

Three and four year olds in Torfaen may apply for a free part time nursery education place the term after their third birthday (rising three place) in either a maintained nursery class/school or in a private or voluntary sector childcare setting, such as a playgroup, day nursery or cylch meithrin, as long as the setting is registered and approved to provide nursery education places. All settings are regulated and subject to Estyn inspection.

Figure 71 shows that there are 36 settings in Torfaen approved to provide free part time nursery education places for three and four year olds. Of these:

- 20 are maintained nursery schools/classes in schools
- 15 are Full Day Care / Nursery
- 1 are Sessional Day Care

Figure 71 shows the number of maintained and private/voluntary providers of nursery education places by area

Figure 71. Maintained and private/voluntary providers of nursery education TCBC

Torfaen Area	Maintained nursery schools/classes in schools	Full Day Care	Sessional Day Care
Blaenavon	1		
Pontypool	8	7	
Cwmbran	11	8	1

Childcare providers within the Pontypool area include Full Day Care located in Abersychan 5, Pontypool and Pontnewynydd and New Inn 4.

Childcare Providers within the Cwmbran area include Sessional Care located in Llanyrafon North and Full Day Care in Croesyceiliog South, Llanyrafon South 2, Croesceiliog North 1, Llantarnam 3, Two Locks 2, Upper Cwmbran 3, and Pontnewydd 3.

There are no childcare providers approved to provide free part time nursery, other than the maintained nursery located within the Blaenavon area

The majority of maintained nursery schools are located within the Cwmbran area. These are distributed amongst the Fairwater 2, Coed Eva x 2, Croesyceiliog North1, Llantarnam 2, Pontnewydd 3, Llantarnam 3, Upper Cwmbran, Pontnewydd 3 and St.Dials 1 Lower Super Output Areas.

Maintained nurseries located within Pontypool are distributed within the Abersychan 5, Abersychan 2, Brynwern, Panteg 2, New Inn 2, St.Cadocs & Penygarn, Panteg 2 and Abersychan 1 Lower Super Output Areas.

During 2016, Llantarnam Community Primary relocated sites from Llantarnam 3 into Llantarnam 2 as part of Torfaen County Borough Council's 21st Century Schools Plan. Admission numbers into the school have increased the schools capacity number from 213 to 315.

Figures 72 shows the number of maintained and private/voluntary providers of nursery education places distributed by language and area

Figure 72. Maintained and private/voluntary providers of nursery education places per language category. TCBC

Language	Full Day Care/ Nursery			Sessional Day Care			Childminder		
	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Welsh		1	1						
Welsh & English									
English & some bilingual elements		6	7			1			
English									
Other									

Figure 73 Maintained nursery schools/classes in schools distributed by language and area. TCBC

Language	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Welsh		2	1
Welsh & English			
English & some bilingual elements	1	6	7
English			3
Other			

Private and voluntary nursery education providers in Torfaen have not been able to supply any figures relating to their capacity for education places. Recent changes to CSSIW regulations has also seen an increase or decrease in the number of registered childcare places within settings during this time period. Therefore it would not be appropriate to include the number of registered places available for a comparable figure. However, data submitted from Torfaen County Borough Council reveals that a total of 850 3 - 4year olds were funded within private and voluntary education providers during Autumn 15, Spring 16 and Summer 16. An additional 202 3 year olds have been funded during Autumn 16.

Funded places throughout the from Autumn 15 to Summer 16 within the private and voluntary settings stated in Appendix 10 identified that;

- The majority of 3/4 year olds attended English and some bilingual elements settings between the Cwmbran (total of 497) and Pontypool area (total of 403)
- Welsh Medium places are relatively low, however this is funded exclusively through one childcare provider located within the Pontypool area.

Information abstracted from the SASS data submitted from CSSIW was based on a snapshot of funded children during 1 week in July 2016. Not all private or voluntary providers of nursery education places responded to the SASS, therefore the total attendance figures are incomplete. In addition to this one Welsh Medium sessional childcare setting relocated and became a full day care setting. Therefore attendance records indicated in the SASS have been excluded to avoid confusion.

Please note the total figures generated may include the same children attending every day or children who are granted full time places. Please also note that the some childcare providers wrongly indicated the language spoken within their setting, therefore the SASS data does not correlate to the information held within the Family Information Service.

The data abstracted from the SASS revealed the weekly attendance during July 2016 includes;

- A total of 48 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday at a Welsh Medium childcare morning setting within the Pontypool area, a further 34 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon
- A total of 153 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday at Welsh and English medium childcare morning settings within the Cwmbran area, a further 72 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon
- A total of 500 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday at English and some bilingual childcare morning setting within the Pontypool area, a further 190 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon

- A total of 123 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday at English and some bilingual childcare morning settings within the Cwmbran area, a further 123 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon
- A total of 152 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday at English morning settings within the Cwmbran area, a further 89 three and four year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon

Figure 74 shows the number of nursery admissions made to school during September 2016 and the schools overall admission numbers. Figure will indicate a number of places still available to rising threes during January and April 2017. Schools that indicate no vacancies may not have capacity for rising threes during 2017.

Figure 74 Overall number of Childcare places, by school term Autumn 2016 (September admissions) TCBC

Schools	Admission Number	Spaces taken	Spaces available
Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary	130	69	61
Blenheim Road Primary	52	38	14
Brynteg Primary	78	42	36
Coed Eva Primary	60	61	-1
Croesyceiliog Primary	60	58	2
Garnteg Primary	60	49	11
George Street Primary	86	63	23
Griffithstown Primary	60	30	30
Llantarnam Community Primary	78	51	27
Maendy Primary	68	35	33
Nant Celyn Primary	52	52	0
New Inn Primary	64	64	0
Penygarn Primary	70	61	9
Pontnewydd Primary	108	44	64
Woodlands Primary	74	52	22
Ysgol Panteg	41	34	7
Ysgol Bryn Onnen	30	16	14

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran	58	46	12
Our Lady of the Angels RC	30	*Unknown	Unknown
St. Davids RC Primary	39	*Unknown	unknown

Figure 74 shows there are a total of 1,298 places within maintained nursery/nursery classes in Torfaen. Of this 865 *(figures unavailable from two schools) children entered nursery education during September 2016.

Figure 74 shows that there is no or limited capacity for rising threes within the New Inn 2, Coed Eva, Croesyceiliog North 1, and Penygarn and St.Cadocs areas. There is also limited rising three availability for Welsh Medium education within the Panteg area. Larger admissions numbers reside in the Blaenavon and Upper Cwmbran 4 areas, with them also reporting the larger vacancy places for rising threes.

Data abstracted from the Parent / Carer Survey revealed that 26% of respondents have a child who is 3 or 4 years old (A total of 31 children).

58% of respondents take up their entitlement for free Early Years Education per week. The majority of parent/carers who responded to the survey claim the free entitlement within the Cwmbran and Pontypool area.

- 8 parent/carers identified that they do not use the free entitlement for their 3 - 4 year old. Reasons included;
- I don't know about the entitlement (2 respondents residing in the Pontypool and Cwmbran area)
 - My child/children are already in full time education (1 respondent residing the Pontypool area and 2 residing in the Cwmbran area)
 - I could not get a place at my chosen provider (1 respondent residing in the Cwmbran area)

Additional childcare requirements was highlighted by respondents to enable them to claim their full entitlement. Childcare required included a breakfast club within the Cwmbran area an Additional Playgroup/Meithrin/Nursery in the Pontypool area.

8.2 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Vacancy data indicates places available for rising threes in the Blaenavon and Upper Cwmbran 4 areas. Therefore proposing sufficient places available
- Fair distribution of maintained and private/voluntary childcare providers within Torfaen
- 21st Century Schools Plan has seen increases in the number of places available Llantarnam, Cwmbran
- Welsh Medium education is provided both within the Cwmbran and Pontypool are

Weakness

- SASS data provides an inconsistent overview of the number of children attending nursery during July 2016
- No Welsh medium education in Blaenavon
- A minority of families who participated in the parent / carer survey revealed that they did not know about nursery entitlement, or could not receive a placement at their chosen provision
- Only 1 Maintained setting in the Blaenavon area
- No Bilingual provision in both Maintained and Private/Voluntary settings
- Limited spaces / no spaces for rising threes potentially entering education early 2017 in Pontypool (New Inn 2, Penygarn and St.Cadocs) and Cwmbran (Coed Eva and Croesyceiliog North 1)
- Attendance figures are unavailable

8.3. Analysis of Flying Start Provision

Data regarding the take up and availability of Flying Start childcare places for two year olds is supplied by Torfaen County Borough Councils Childcare Team.

The Flying Start programme is a Welsh Government initiative that aims to intervene in the lives of the most disadvantaged children to improve their life chances. The programme provides enhanced health visiting services, parenting and early language development and childcare.

The term after their second birthday, children living in Flying Start areas are entitled to Welsh Government funded part-time childcare for 12.5 hours per week, which amounts for 2.5 hours per day, Monday - Friday for 39 weeks of the year. Flying Start catchment areas in Torfaen include:

- Blaenavon
- Penygarn
- Woodlands
- South West Cwmbran
- Northville
- Garndiffaith
- Cwmynyscoy

The Flying Start catchments are postcode-based and only children living in one of the eligible postcodes are entitled to Flying Start childcare.

For the purposes of this report, areas will be distinguished by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) and summarized by Torfaen County Borough Councils 3 settlement areas (Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran).

There are 20 childcare settings in Torfaen approved to provide Flying Start (increase of 4 since 2014), these are provided by 6 Full Day Care Settings, 9 Sessional Day Care Settings and 5 Childminders. 2 of the Sessional Day Care settings provide Flying Start Childcare exclusively for 2 - 3years olds residing within a Flying Start area, the other settings provide both.

The maximum number of places available for Flying Start within Torfaen is 304, based on figures submitted in Autumn 2016. The number of places include the total number of children accessing a Flying Start place during Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Autumn 2016.

Figure 75. Maximum number of places geographically TCBC

Name of setting	LSOA / Settlement area	Capacity	Take up	Percentage take up
Busy Bees BICC	Blaenavon 2 / Blaenavon	16	16	100%
Busy Bees Park Street	Blaenavon 3 / Blaenavon	17 (can increase to meet demand)	17	100%
Little Ducklings Garnteg	Aberysychan 2	28	19	68%
Cylch Meithrin Aber	Aberysychan 5	11	11	100%
Penygarn Un 5	St Cadocs and Penygarn	39	39	100%
Little Duckling Tre	Trevethin 2	23	23	100%
Pontymoil Un	Pontypool	12	12	100%
Meithrinfa	Pontnewydd 3	5	3	60%
Little Red Berrries	Two Locks 1	17	17	100%
Little Angles	Fairwater 2	26	26	100%
Building Blocks Too	Fairwater 2	22	22	100%
Maendy	Pontnewydd 3	25	18	72%
Buzzy Bees	Upper Cwmbran 3	11	11	100%
Little Seedlings	Upper Cwmbran 1	10	10	100%
Thornhill	Upper Cwmbran 1	32	28	88%
	Brynwern	4	1	25%
	Wainfelin 1	2	0	0%
	Panteg 5	2	0	0%
	Llantarnam 3	2	0	0%
	Total	304	273	90%

Results from the Parent / Carer survey identified 13 families living within a Flying Start area, with the majority of these living within the Cwmbran area (7 Cwmbran, 3 Pontypool, 3 Blaenavon, Annex 11). Results indicate that 100% of families within the Cwmbran area are accessing free childcare through Flying Start, however only populating that 5 children are actually claiming free childcare. 44% of Pontypool families are accessing free childcare, however those not accessing free childcare did not provide a reason to evaluate why the take up has not been sought. 1 family within the Blaenavon area identified that they did not know about the entitlement and therefore do not access free childcare, while another family identified that the funded childcare was unavailable and the reason for not claiming their entitlement.

8.4. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- A substantial amount of private and voluntary childcare settings providing Flying Start childcare in Torfaen
- Flexible choices of childcare types including Full Day Care, Sessional and Childminder use
- Vacancies within Welsh Medium childcare
- Data from the Parent / Carer survey reveals that eligible families are accessing their funded childcare place. 100% of these respondents are from the Cwmbran area. However statistically the number of children actually attending is significantly low.
- Take up of Flying Start childcare places are well attended, with 11 settings reporting full capacity
- Families who move out of the Flying Start area, may be eligible for an outreach funded place based on individual circumstances

Weakness

- Reduced number of childcare places being accessed via a registered childminder, however this is due to parent choice of childcare setting
- Data from the Parent / Carer survey revealed that 1 family in the Blaenavon area did not know about their entitlement and therefore did not access funded childcare

9 Free Breakfast Club Provision

9.1. Analysis of Free Breakfast Club Provision

The below analysis examines the number of Free Breakfast Initiative places geographically within Torfaen.

Torfaen Catering are obliged to provide a breakfast for every child who wants one as per Welsh Government guidelines for children in reception to year 6. The number of places are based on the maximum capacity intake as details in Torfaen County Borough Council's Parent / Carer Information Booklet 2017.

There are a total number of 7,253 (increase of 3,378 since 2014) free breakfast initiative places available within Torfaen. Changes to the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme has seen an increase in capacity to Cwmffrwdroer Primary School and Garnteg Primary School due to the closure of Pontnewydd Primary. Figure 76 shows the number of places are distributed as follows;

Summary of Places available per area

Blaenavon = 450

Cwmbran = 4046

Pontypool = 2757

It is evident that the majority of free breakfast places reside within the Cwmbran area despite the number of schools being marginally distributed equally between the Cwmbran and Pontypool areas. There is a significant reduction in the number of free breakfast initiative places available in Blaenavon due to only one school operating in the area.

The number of children attending each site is currently unavailable from Torfaen Catering.

Figure 76. No. of places available TCBC

Area	Name of Schools	Places Available (Sept 2016)
Blaenavon 2 (Blaenavon)	BLAENAVON HERITAGE VC	450 (cap – without nursery num)
Fairwater 2 (Cwmbran)	BLENHEIM ROAD	315 (cap – without nursery num)
Abersychan 5(Pontypool)	BRYNTEG NURSERY**(in house)	16
Coed Eva (Cwmbran)	COED EVA PRIMARY	420 (cap – without nursery num)
Croesyceiliog North 1(Cwmbran)	CROESYCEILIOG PRIMARY	420 (cap – without nursery num)
Croesyceiliog South (Cwmbran)	CROWNBRIDGE	101 (cap – without nursery)
Llantarnam 3 (Cwmbran)	OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS RC	210 (cap – without nursery)
Pontnewynydd (Pontypool)	CWMFFRWDOER	210 (cap)
Abersychan 2 (Pontypool)	GARNTEG	259 (cap – without nursery)
Brynwern (Pontypool)	GEORGE STREET	420 (cap – without nursery)
Fairwater 3 (Cwmbran)	GREENMEADOW	279 (cap)
Panteg 2 (Pontypool)	GRIFFITHSTOWN	420 (cap – without nursery)
Llantarnam 2 (Cwmbran)	LLANTARNAM (New site)	315 (cap – without nursery)
Llanyrafon North (Cwmbran)	LLANYRAVON	407 (cap)
Pontnewydd 3 (Cwmbran)	MAENDY	229 (cap – without nursery)
Coed Eva (Cwmbran)	NANT CELYN	420 (cap – without nursery)
Brynwern (Pontypool)	PADRE PIO	210 (cap)
St.Cadocs & Penygarn	PENYGARN	469 (cap – without nursery)
Upper Cwmbran 4 (Cwmbran)	PONTNEWYDD	386 (cap - without nursery)
New Inn 2 (Pontypool)	NEW INN** (Sonic)	40
Pontnewydd 2 (Cwmbran)	ST DAVIDS **(playworks)	226 (cap – without nursery)
Abersychan 3 (Pontypool)	VICTORIA	215 (cap)
Upper Cwmbran 3 (Cwmbran)	WOODLANDS	318 (cap – without nursery)
Abersychan 1 (Pontypool)	YSGOL BRYN ONNEN	210 (cap – without nursery)
Panteg 3 (Pontypool)	YSGOL PANTEG INFANTS	150 (cap – without nurse)
Panteg 2 (Pontypool)	YSGOL PANTEG JUNIORS	138 (cap - without nursery)

10. Working Tax Credit/ Universal Credit and Employer Supported Childcare/ Tax Free Childcare

10.1. Analysis of Working Tax Credit/ Universal Credit and Employer Supported Childcare/ Tax Free Childcare

10.2 Summary

Based on the summary of the parent/carer survey a total of 207 (76% of all respondent parent/carers) completed the Financial Support section, however not all parent/carers completed all questions. Therefore there are discrepancies amongst the data.

Only 10% of families are claiming the Childcare Element of Working Tax/Universal credit, with 20% reporting it's not applicable.

Those who claim the Childcare Element of Working Tax/Universal credit predominantly use a private day nursery and other types of childcare include Cylch Meithrin/Playgroup, Childminder and After School Club. However the number of childcare settings used exceeds the number of parents claiming working tax credits which would suggest multiple use of different childcare types.

Those who completed the financial support section of the Parent / Carer survey reveals that 14 parent/ carers from the Cwmbran area claim the Childcare Element of Working Tax/Universal Credit, compared to 5 parent/cares claiming in the Pontypool area. No parent/carers from the Blaeanavon area are claiming the childcare element of working tax/universal credit.

The majority of parent/carers who completed this section have no intention of claiming the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit/Universal Tax credit in the near future.

Those who intend to claim the Childcare Element of Working Tax/Universal Credit will use this within a nursery (17). Other main childcare types include Cylch Meithrin/ Playgroup (8), Childminder (5) and After School Club (5).

6 parent/carers from the Blaenavon area indicated that they will not be claiming the Childcare Element of Working Tax/Universal Credit in the near future, compared to 44 parent/carers in the Pontypool area and 57 parent/carers in the Cwmbran area.

11% of parent/carers who do not claim the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit/Universal Credit predominantly report that know that they are not eligible, and 6% of parents/carers also report that they do not know about the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit/Universal Credit. 5% of parent/carers are unsure whether they are able to claim.

69% of all parent/carers who do not intend on claiming the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit/Universal Credit did not give a reason for their decision.

Only 9% of parent/carers who responded to the parent/carer survey claim Tax Free childcare or receive assistance through an Employer supported scheme and generally use this assistance within a nursery. Parents/carers who intend to use childcare (based on 24 responses) in the near future, also identify nursery as being the main childcare type being accessed. Other childcare types include After School Club (7), Breakfast and Holiday Club (3).

Parent/carers who do not intend to claim Tax Free childcare or assistance through an Employer supported scheme (78% based on 198 responses in this section) mainly reported that they were unsure whether they are eligible (46 responses, 3 residing in the Blaenavon area, 29 in Cwmbran and 14 in the Pontypool, area), that they do not know about the Tax Free childcare/Employer supported scheme (45 responses, 2 residing in the Blaenavon area, 31 in Cwmbran and 12 in Pontypool) and that they know they are not eligible (35 responses). Other statements include 'I do not pay for the childcare I use'(15) and parent/carers further reported that they did not intend to claim due to;

- Childcare vouchers are only available to purchase at the beginning of the financial year (Apr)
- Family and Friends help with childcare so there is no cost
- Not currently using childcare / childcare is not required
- Being a stay at home parent, so have no requirement for childcare
- They receive help through child tax credits
- Being on benefits
- Understanding they cannot claim tax free childcare or assistance through an employer when claiming tax credits
- A desire to have children being cared for at home rather than in a childcare setting (esp. 0 - 3yrs) / more beneficial
- Previously using childcare, but no longer require it
- Children are too old

10.2. Summary based on Parent / Carer Survey

- Low response rate to the Parent / Carer Survey reveals a low take up of Working Tax Credit / Universal Credit
- Predominately families claiming Tax Credit / Universal Credit use registered Day Nurseries, Playgroup / Cylch Meithin, Childminders and After School club

- Data from the Parent / Carer Survey indicates multiple childcare provision used by families claiming Tax Credit / Universal Credit
- Take up of Tax Credit / Universal Credit is higher than in the Cwmbran area compared to Pontypool
- No parent / carers in the Blaenavon area are claiming Tax Credit / Universal Credit
- Demand for applications to Tax Credit / Universal Credit are predominately low
- 69% of those not intending to claim Tax Credit / Universal Credit did not specify a reason
- Only 9% of parent / carers receive assistance through an Employer supported scheme
- A minority of parent / carers report that they do not know if they are eligible, this was greater in the Cwmbran area

11. Sustainability

Direct grants/ funding for childcare providers and parent/carers

Funding for childcare is available through the Assisted Places Grant delivered by Torfaen County Borough Council. Parent/carers in Torfaen can apply for an Assisted Places Grant to help pay childcare fees or one to one support within a registered childcare setting. Application into the Assisted Places Grant is by referral only.

The Assisted Places Grant is delivered through the Childcare Team for Torfaen County Borough Council and the purpose of the grant is to support the improvement in the welfare or quality of life of the child by providing access to CSSIW registered, quality childcare placements to support a child's development and/or to address a child's emerging needs.

The grant will pay the childcare fees and/or additional support for individual children to access sessional childcare at an approved childcare setting for an initial period of one term. Some families may be eligible to apply for both the childcare fees and the additional support elements of the grant.

Eligible parents / carers who are applying for childcare fee's and who have children aged 0 - 3 years (or 3 - 11 years if parents are accessing training) and for those applying for additional support children aged 2 - 12 years, must meet an eligibility criteria. Eligibility of the child will be checked against the criteria and terms and conditions.

The grant can pay for places at childcare settings registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) and are also approved by the Local Authority under the Assisted Places Grant Scheme. This could include playgroups, cylchoedd meithrin, day nurseries, childminders and before/after school clubs.

The below summary details the funding allocated to childcare providers during April 2016 - February 2017 and the number of children accessing the assisted places grant (both for childcare fees and 1:1 support);

- 26 registered childcare settings in Torfaen are eligible to receive funding from the Assisted Places Grant and total of 51 children are accessing the assisted places grant
- Geographically 15 registered settings are funded in the Cwmbran area, 7 in Pontypool and 1 in Blaeanavon
- During April 2016 – February 2017 £29,167.29 has been awarded from the assisted places grant to Cwmbran settings

- During April 2016 – February 2017 £23,183.25 has been awarded from the assisted places grant to Pontypool settings
- During April 2016 – February 2017 £1,125.60 has been awarded from the assisted places grant to Pontypool settings
- A total of 28 children are currently being funded through the assisted places grant in Cwmbran settings, 13 of these are for childcare fees, 8 children are being funded for 1:1 support and 5 children are being funded for both childcare fees and 1:1 support
- A total of 22 children are currently being funded through the assisted places grant in Pontypool settings, 13 of these are for childcare fees, 7 children are being funded for 1:1 support and 2 children are being funded for both childcare fees and 1:1 support
- 1 child is currently receiving childcare fees through the assisted places grant in a Blaenavon setting
- There are a total 10 applications awaiting approval

CSSIW de-registrations

During 2016 the number of CSSIW de-registrations was recorded by Torfaen Family Information Service. The below summary evaluates the number of registered childcare providers who de-registered during a snapshot of time between January 2016 to February 2017.

A total of 8 registered childminders de-registered during this time equating to a loss of 52 childcare places. In addition to this a further 2 registered childminders are on suspension with 15 childcare places being unavailable. Therefore a total of 67 childcare places have been lost by de-registration and suspension. Geographically childcare providers are disseminated as follows;

- 7 registered childminders de-registered from the Cwmbran area, equating to a loss of 48 childcare places
- 1 registered childminder de-registered from the Pontypool area, equating to a loss of 4 childcare places
- 2 registered childminders are on suspension within the Pontypool area, equating to a loss of 15 places

During this time 2 Childminders registered within the Pontypool area with a combined 13 childcare places. Therefore the net loss of registered childminder places is 54 (48 within the Cwmbran area, 6 within the Pontypool area).

In addition to this during January 2016 to February 2017 the following childcare providers have also deregistered;

- 3 Playgroups within the Cwmbran area de-registered, equating to 63 childcare places. Reasons included relocation of one childcare provider due to fire damage, closure of the playgroup and a further relocation to new premises. One playgroup re-registered with a total of 19 places (a decrease of 10 places from original registration) and further playgroup re-registered for 18 places (an increase of 2 registered places from original registration). Therefore the total net of 26 sessional childcare places lost in the Cwmbran area.
- 1 After School club in the Cwmbran area de-registered, but remained open and operates under two hours (total of 24 childcare places)
- 1 Cylch Meithrin within the Cwmbran area deregistered equating to 24 welsh medium childcare places. However it must be reported that despite the loss of the Cylch Meithrin a Welsh Full Day Care setting opened within the Cwmbran area offering 62 registered childcare places for children aged 0-5 years. Therefore 38 welsh medium places have been gained within the Cwmbran area.

Changes to the CSSIW national minimum standards raised the age range of regulated childcare operating over 2 hours from 0 - 8 years to 0 - 12 years during April 2016. These changes saw a number of closed access summer playschemes co-ordinated by Cwmbran Community Council cease to operate during summer 2016, as they were no longer permitted to provide sessions longer than 1 hour and 59 minutes. This included a total loss of 1,350 registered childcare places during summer 2016 (150 of these were offered through the medium of welsh).

Funding channelled to parents, as users of childcare (Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Employer supported childcare, Tax-Free childcare)

Parent/Carers can access some funding towards the cost of childcare, however this is dependent on a number of eligibility criteria and the amount of help received can greatly differ between families based on the number of factors including the children accessing registered childcare, annual household income and the number of hours worked.

Parents/Carers may qualify for help towards the costs of childcare if the childcare they use is registered. The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) is responsible for the registration and regulation of childcare in Wales. Parent/Carers can check with the Family Information Service if their childcare provider is registered with CSSIW and they can request the registration number directly from their chosen provider. The below summary evaluates funding current funding available for parent/carers and proposed funding during 2017, this includes

- The Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit
- Childcare Vouchers
- Universal Credit
- Tax Free Childcare Scheme

The Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit

The Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit is financial help towards the costs of childcare. This is paid to the person who is mainly responsible for caring for the child or children, alongside payments of Child Tax Credit and other elements of Working Tax Credit. The Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit is dependent on household income. However, amounts received may differ due to the number of children using childcare or if the child/ren has a disability.

Currently if parent/carers work 16 hours or more and pay for registered or approved childcare they may be eligible for help towards the cost of childcare.

If eligible, parent/carers could receive up to **70%** of their childcare costs, however this can only be claimed if they are in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

There is a limit to the total amount available to eligible parents, this is as follows;

- £175 in costs per week for one child and £300 for two or more children. Any childcare costs that parent/carers pay in excess of these amounts are not used in the calculation.
- Therefore eligible parent/carers could claim **£122.50** (70% of £175 for one child) or **£210** (70% of £300 for two children) towards their childcare costs per week. Childcare costs exceeding this amount are payable by the parent/carer.

Parent/Carers can claim for any child in registered or approved childcare up to the Saturday following 1st September after their 15th birthday, or the Saturday following 1st September after a child's 16th birthday if the child is: registered blind, or has been taken off the blind register within the last 28 weeks before they make a claim, or receive Disability Living Allowance for that child.

Childcare Vouchers

Childcare Vouchers are a Government scheme that is offered through employers and allows working parent/carers to pay their childcare costs from a pre-tax salary. Childcare vouchers are administered through a voucher company (commonly through a 'salary sacrifice' scheme), and could help parent/carers save up to £933.00 per year in tax and National Insurance contributions (based on a maximum available savings for a Basic rate taxpayer).

Childcare Vouchers are taken from a salary before tax and National Insurance payments. The amount is exempt from tax and National Insurance contributions up to a value of £55 per week. Employers save by not paying tax and national insurance on the same amount. If parent/carers are a higher rate tax-payer, the amount that is exempt may be lower. Please note that childcare paid for in childcare vouchers must be registered or approved

Childcare Vouchers will be phased out by 2018 with the introduction of Tax Free Childcare. However parent/ carers who are continuing to using childcare vouchers can do so until their employer stops offering the scheme, and do not necessarily need to convert to Tax Free Childcare.

Tax Free Childcare Scheme

Tax Free Childcare is a Government initiative which will be gradually introduced during early 2017. This will eventually be available to families with children under 12 (up to 17 years for children with a disability), if they meet the eligibility criteria. Parent/carers who pay for registered childcare will be able to open an online account which they can pay into to cover the cost of registered childcare. For every 80p parent/carers put into the account, the Government will top up 20p. This potentially offers parent/ carers a maximum saving of £2,000 per year, per child (£4,000 for a child with a disability).

To qualify, parent/carers must be in work and earning a minimum of £115 each per week. The income cap for applying for Tax Free Childcare is currently based at £100,000. Self-employed parent/carers will also be able to make a claim into Tax Free Childcare, which is not currently offered though childcare voucher schemes.

Payments into the account can also be made by other individuals such as family members or employers, allowing parent/carers the flexibility to save money into the account for times where childcare needs are greater. If parent/carers circumstances change, they can withdraw the money saved, minus the governments contributions.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is due to be enrolled out to all new claimants during 2017 replacing a number of benefits including Working Tax Credit. Help towards the cost of childcare will be available for parent/carers who are in paid employment (if part of a couple, both parent /carers must be in paid employment) and use registered childcare. It is proposed that Universal Credit may help families pay up to 85% of their childcare costs with a maximum claim of £646 for one child per month, or £1108 for two children (GOV.UK) if they are eligible for Universal Credit, however this will be based on an eligibility criteria and the amount awarded will be based on family circumstances.

More information about help with the cost of childcare will be available to parent/carers once Universal Credit has been implemented in Torfaen.

12. Cross Border

Torfaen County Borough Council consulted with neighbouring Local Authorities to obtain information on the use of childcare within and outside of Torfaen. Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Borough Council and Newport County Borough were contacted by Torfaen Family Information Service requesting the following information;

- The number of enquiries received from Torfaen residents looking for childcare (type of childcare and for what age)
- Information on nursery education places funded outside of your local authority based on September intake 2016.

During the time of requests several local authorities contacted neighbouring services at the same time, however the information requested was not universal and comparative. The following information is a summary of exchanges between other local Family Information Services who collated and analysed this section.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council provided information to Torfaen Family Information Service based on a request from another Local Authority. It was identified from their Parent / Carer survey that;

- 435 parents/carers respond to the parent survey, out of which 24 used out of county term time childcare (15 did not state where)
- Torfaen was chosen as a reason for using childcare outside the Blaenau Gwent Area as this was “closer to work and good reviews from mums”
- 22 parent/carers said they used holiday childcare out of county and 13 did not state where this was
- Parent/carers who identified that they used childcare outside of Blaenau Gwent during school holidays stated their reasons due to childcare being “Closer to work and good reviews from mums” and “Wife works in private day nursery”

It was also noted that a new Day Nursery has been proposed in the areas of Swffryd, this would be on the borders of both Torfaen and Caerphilly.

Monmouthshire FIS contacted Torfaen FIS via email to request the number of Monmouthshire residents who have requested information on childcare for Monmouthshire or Torfaen, the number of Monmouthshire children receiving early years funding within Torfaen, and the number of Monmouthshire childcare providers that are advertised through Torfaen FIS due to being close to the border. Monmouthshire FIS further requested any other information regarding the need for childcare in Monmouthshire. Torfaen FIS responded to the request and provided the same information for Newport and Caerphilly FIS.

Since September 2015 a total of 11 enquiries have been received from residents outside of the Torfaen area. The below information is a summary of enquiries received per neighbouring local authority;

- 3 enquiries have been received by Monmouthshire residents seeking childcare information within Torfaen
- 3 enquiries have been received by Blaenau Gwent residents seeking childcare information within Torfaen
- 2 enquiries have been received by Newport residents seeking childcare information within Torfaen
- 1 enquiry had been received by a Monmouthshire resident seeking childcare information within Torfaen
- At the time of publication, Torfaen FIS was unable to provide neighbouring local authorities information on the number of Monmouthshire children being funded for early years education in Torfaen
- Torfaen Family Information does not advertise Monmouthshire / Newport or Blaenau Gwent childcare providers which are situated close to the borders. However Torfaen Family Information Service reported that a day nursery is within close proximity to Newport, and two day nurseries are located near the Monmouthshire border, but are all classified as Torfaen County Borough Council
- Enquires received from Newport residents included information on out of school childcare, holiday clubs and leisure facilities
- Enquires received from Blaenau Gwent residents included information on day nurseries, holiday club, leisure activities, childminders and out of school childcare
- Enquires received from Monmouthshire residents included information on leisure activities, out of school childcare and holiday clubs
- Enquires received from Caerphilly residents included information on leisure activities, story time and rhymetime sessions / soft plays centres
- All enquiries received from residents outside of the Torfaen area received a customer service feedback form, but did not complete

Information received from Caerphilly FIS revealed that enquiries made to them from 5 Torfaen residents typically requested information on parent and toddler groups (2), full day care (1), volunteering (1) and training/working with children and young people (1).

Information received from Monmouthshire FIS revealed that during this time no enquires had been received by them from residents in Torfaen. However during Autumn 2015 2 children living within Torfaen the area were funded for early years education, 2 children during Spring 2016 and 5 children during Summer 2016.

Further consultation with other local authorities revealed that the response rate for the Parent/Carer survey had been significantly lower than previous CSA's. The following information is based on an estimate of received responses during consultation

Torfaen – 274 (final count)

Blaenau Gwent – 435

Bridgend - 200

Caerphilly – 451

Ceredigion – 297

Port Talbot – 250

Powys – 200

Through consultation with other local authorities it was unanimously agreed that the response was unfortunate compared to total population figures. It may be questioned within local authorities as to whether numerous consultations from both Welsh Government and those locally produced were a contributing factor in the reduced return rate for the Parent / Carer survey.

13. Workforce Development

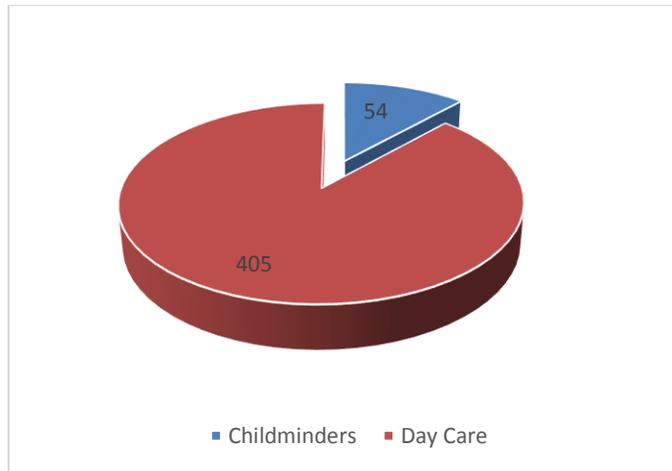
Torfaen County Borough Council sought to report on the Workforce Development within Torfaen based on data supplied by CSSIW during November 2016 to populate Annexe 13 which was supplied by Welsh Government. Registered childcare providers were requested to complete a Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on behalf of CSSIW and the data was collected during July 2016. Torfaen County Borough has adhered to the requirements placed by Welsh Government, however the response rate from childcare providers was less than 90% and therefore the following analysis cannot be identified as a true indication of childcare within Torfaen. Annex 13 was not used in this analysis due to the complexity of abstracting information from the SASS data. Therefore Torfaen County Borough Council have made a comprehensive effort to provide a partial summary based on incomplete figures. The following analysis was compiled and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

When looking at the SASS data provided for workforce development, a total of 459 childcare staff completed data on workforce development. Of these, 54 were categorised as childminders, 405 were categorised as Children's Day Care.

Of the 405 categorised as Children's Day Care, 322 were full day care, 39 were out of school providers and 44 were sessional care providers.

The information collated for this section will not provide all childcare provider details of workforce development due under 90% return of SASS data.

Figure 77.. Number of staff in Childcare Care settings who completed the workforce SASS data 2016



Childminders

Figure 79 below shows the highest level of qualifications (ON Care Council for Wales List) per childminders type and next level of qualification they are working towards. These are based on 54 childminder responses.

Figure 78 Summary of Childcare Type SASS data 2016

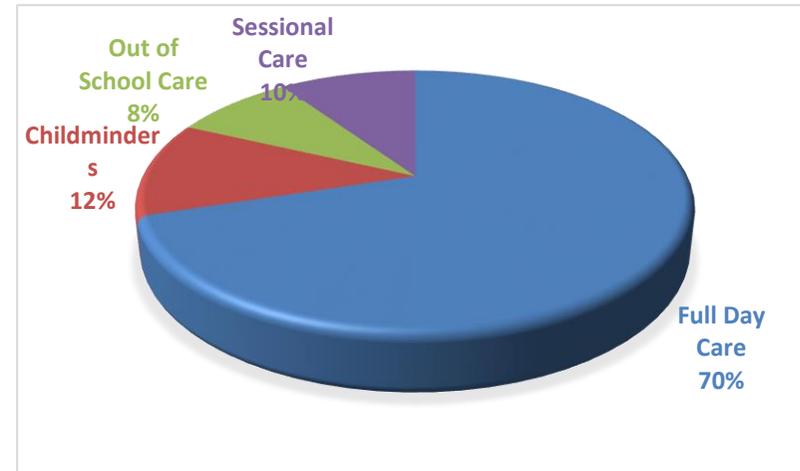


Figure 79 Childminder Qualifications (ON Care council for WALES List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Not specified	Childcare Practitioner	1	None	1
Level 2	Childcare practitioner	1	None	1
Level 3	Childcare Practitioner	18	Level 3 None Not specified	2 8 8
Level 5	Childcare Practitioner	3	Level 3 Not specified	1 2
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	1	Level 3	1
	RI/RP/Director/Owner	1	Level 3	1

Figure 80 below shows the highest level of qualification (NOT on Care Council for Wales List) per childminder type and next level of qualifications they are working towards

Figure 80 Childminder Qualifications (NOT on Care Council for Wales List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of qualification (NOT on CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
None	Childcare Practitioner	4	None	4
Not specified	Childcare Practitioner	11	None	6

			Not specified	5
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	1	None	1
	Not specified	1	Level 2	1
Level 1	Childcare practitioner	2	Level 2 None	1 1
Level 3	Childcare practitioner	5	Level 3 Level 5 None	1 1 3
Level 5	Childcare Practitioner	1	None	1
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	1	None specified	1
Level 6	Childcare Practitioner	1	None	1

A further two Childcare Practitioners reported not specified to Highest Level of Qualification and Not Specific on Is On Qualification List. Neither are working towards a qualification.

Full Day Care

Figure 81 below shows the highest level of qualifications (ON Care Council for Wales List) per Day Care type and next level of qualification they are working towards. This is based on 322 responses for Full Day Care, please note a number of childcare providers included job roles within the settings. These included, Accounts, Administrative, Apprentice, Catering Staff, Cleaning Staff, Students and Unpaid Staff

Figure 81 Full Day Care Qualifications (ON Care council for WALES List)

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Level 1 (1)	Childcare practitioner	1	Level 2	1
Level 2 (27)	Apprentice	7	Level 3	7

	Catering Staff	2	Not specified None	1 1
	Childcare practitioner	18	Level 3 Not specified None	15 1 2
Level 3 (155)	Childcare Practitioner	136	Level 2 Level 3 Level 5 Level 6 Level 7 None Not specified	2 6 18 3 1 73 33
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	17	Level 5 Not specified None	10 3 4
	RI / RP / Director / Owner	2	None	2
Level 4 (30)	Childcare Practitioner	5	Level 5 Not specified None	1 1 3
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	25	Level 5 Not specified None	6 15 4
Level 5 (42)	Childcare Practitioner	42	Level 3 Level 5 None Not specified	1 1 26 14
Level 6 (7)	Childcare Practitioner	3	Level 5	1
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	3	None	6
	RI/ RP/ Director/ Owner	1		

Figure 82 below shows the highest level of qualification (NOT on Care Council for Wales List) per childminder type and next level of qualifications they are working towards

Figure 82 Full Day Care Qualifications (NOT on Care Council for Wales List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of qualification (NOT on CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Level 1 (1)	Childcare Practitioner	1	Level 2	1
Level 2 (9)	Catering Staff	1	Level 3	1
	Childcare practitioner	6	Level 3 None	4 2
	Cleaning Staff	1	None	1
	Leader / Manager / Supervisor	1	None	1
Level 3 (8)	Childcare Practitioner	4	Level 3 None	1 3
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	2	None	2
	Catering staff	1	None	1
	Volunteers / Unpaid	1	None	1
Level 4 (1)	RI/RP/Director/Owner	1	Level 5	1
Level 6 (6)	Childcare Practitioner	3	Level 3 Level 5 None	1 1 1
	RI/ RP/ Director/ Owner	2	None	2

	Cleaning Staff	1	None	1
Level 7 (1)	Volunteers / Unpaid	1	None	1

A further Childcare practitioner with a Level 1 Qualification reported not specified to Is 'On Qualification List' and isn't working towards any further qualifications.

5 Full Day Care settings with Level 2 Qualifications reported Not specific for 'Is On Qualification List'

7 Full Day Care settings with Level 3 Qualifications reported Not specific for 'Is On Qualification List'

5 Full Day Care settings reported no qualifications, and a further 16 did not specify their highest qualifications.

Sessional Day Care

Figure 83 below shows the highest level of qualifications (ON Care Council for Wales List) per Sessional Day Care and next level of qualification they are working towards.

Figure 83 Sessional Day Care Qualifications (ON Care Council for Wales List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Level 2 (4)	Childcare practitioner	3	Level 3	3
	Not specified	1	Not Specified	1
Level 3 (21)	Childcare practitioner	15	Level 5	2
			Not Specified	7
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	4	Level 5	6

	Not specified	2	None	2
Level 4 (4)	Childcare Practitioner	1	Not specified	1
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	3	Not specified None	2 1
Level 5 (4)	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	2	Not specified	2
	Not specified	2	None	2
Level 6	Childcare Practitioner	1	Not specified	1

Figure 84 below shows the highest level of qualifications (NOT Care Council for Wales List) per Sessional Day Care and next level of qualification they are working towards.

Figure 84 Sessional Day Care Qualifications (NOT Care Council for Wales List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Not specified (1)	Childcare Practitioner	1	None	1
Level 3(8)	Childcare Practitioner	2	None	2
	Leader / Manager / Supervisor	6	None	6

Out of School Providers

Figure 85 below shows the highest level of qualifications (ON Skills Active List) per Out of School providers and next level of qualification they are working towards.

Figure 85 Out of School Providers Qualifications (ON Skills Active List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
Level 2 (5)	Childcare practitioner	5	Level 3	2
			Level 6	1
			Not Specified	1
			None	1
Level 3 (24)	Childcare Practitioner	21	Level 3	2
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	3	Level 5	3
Level 4 (2)	Childcare Practitioner	2	None	16
			None	2
Level 5 (5)	Childcare Practitioner	1	Level 5	1
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor	4	None	4
Level 6 (1)	Childcare Practitioner	1	None	1
	Leader/Manager/Supervisor			

Out of School Providers

Figure 86 below shows the highest level of qualifications (NOT on Skills Active List) per Out of School providers and next level of qualification they are working towards.

Figure 86 Out of School Providers Qualifications (NOT on Skills Active List) SASS data 2016

Highest level of relevant qualification (CCW)	Post Title	Number	Next Level of qualification working towards (CCW)	Number
None	Childcare Practitioner	1	Level 3	1

1 Childcare Practitioner did not specify if the qualification held was on the Skills Active list, but they are working towards a Level 3.

Overview of additional training completed, per number of childcare types

Training Completed	Childminder	Full Day Care	Sessional Day Care
Paediatric First Aid	48	258	41
Child Protection/Safe Guarding	43	264	43
Food Hygiene	48	257	37

Additional training completed by Childminders

- Safe Caring in the home (1)
- Autism Awareness (1)
- Gold Standard Healthy Snack Award (1)
- Health and Safety (4)
- Positive behaviour when working with young people (1)
- Safeguarding level 1, 2 and 3 (1)

44 childminders reported that they haven't participated in any further training and 1 childminder reported the date of training but did not specify which course.

Additional training completed by Full Day Care, Sessional Day Care and Crèches

Please note that information submitted from the SASS allowed providers to individually comment on training attended. Therefore multiple providers may have attended the same training, however the interpretation of training received may differ greatly.

Full Day Care

First Aid at Work (7)
30 weeks Welsh (1)
5 Ways to Wellbeing (5)
Allergy Awareness (12)
Elklan (2)
Autism Awareness (2)
Baby Mental Health (1)
Block Play (9)
Brave Boys (5)
Solihuill (1)
Forrest School (5)
Busy Feet (2)
CACHE 3 (1)
Code of Practice SEN (1)
Continuing Professional Development CPD (16)
Creativity (1)
Manual Handling (1)
Designated Safeguarding Officer (1)
ECOLI (2)
Early Effective Learning (EEL) (1)
Elklan Speech And Language (15)
Fire warden (4)
Communication Champion (8)
SOGS (10)

Prince 2 (1)
Environment Matters (3)
Early Years Development Childcare Practice EYDCP (4)
EYTS (1)
Emergency Aid School Teachers (5)
Emergency Aid School teachers Sports First Aid (1)
Fire Safety (1)
Manual Handling (13)
Health and Safety Level 2 (3)
Neglect Training (2)
Cam with Gam (1)
Series Case Review Level 3 (1)
FPP (5)
Maths Training (1)
Foundation Phase Awareness (2)
Flying Start workshops (1)
ISO 9001 (1)
Level 4 in Leadership and Management (2)
Local Workshops (4)
PYYLS 4 (2)
Playwork (1)
Moderation (1)
NDNA Workshop (1)
Nutrition in Early Years (1)
NVQ Level 3 and 4 (1)
Play for Older Children (1)
Risk Assessment (2)
Active Play (2)
Wellbeing (2)
Working with Babies (1)
Welsh (16)

93 Full Day Care settings reported that they have not participated in any further training, while a further 86 did not specify any additional training undertaken.

Sessional Care

Appointed Person First Aid (1)
Designated person for child protection (1)
Designated Safeguarding (2)
Elklan Speech And Language (5)
Emergency First Aid at Work
Risk Assessment / Manual Handling / Fire Awareness (3)
Epi Pen Training (1)
Family Links (1)
Flying start Modules (4)
Health and Safety (1)
Jabadao - Physical Participation (1)
Autism Awareness (1)
Level 3 Safeguarding (2)
Outdoor provision (1)
Domestic Abuse (3)
Foundation Phase Awareness (2)
Solihull Training (2)
Welsh (2)
Positive Behaviour (1)
Vulnerable children (1)

7 sessional childcare providers indicate no additional training has been undertaken, and a further 9 did not specify any training attended.

Out of School Care

CPD (4)
 Diabetes (2)
 Fire Warden (2)
 HLTA Level 4 (2)
 HLTA Level 3 (1)
 NVQ Cache Childcare Development (1)
 Paediatric Basic Life Support (1)
 School First Aid (1)
 Welsh (2)

22 Out of School Care settings reported no further training undertaken.

Overview of training due to expire, per number of childcare types

Childcare Type	Certificates due to expire in next 12 months			Certificates due to expire in next 2 years		
	Paediatric First Aid Certificate	Child Protection Training	Food Hygiene Training	Paediatric First Aid Certificate	Child Protection Training	Food Hygiene Training
Childminder	22	43	48	43		
Full Day Care	154	264	257	258		
Sessional Day Care	23	43	37	23		
Crèches	No information provided on SASS					
Out of School Care	22	31	35	22		

Open Access Play Provision	No information provided on SASS
Nanny	No information provided on SASS

It appears from the SASS data provided for the above that there is some confusion around expiry dates for certificates as opposed to date of training undertaken. For example, Paediatric First Aid certificate asks for expiry dates whereas child protection and food hygiene ask for date of training. Therefore, an accurate picture cannot be made with regards to training needs for the next 12 months or in 2 year's time. However, it can be assumed that those who have provided dates exceeding 2016 are expiry dates. Further data from the CWLWM workforce survey 2016 is included in the below summary.

Workforce training needs, per childcare type – within the next 12 months

Cwlym conducted a Childcare and Early Years Workforce Survey during 2016 and the results collated were used to form part of the analysis for the CSA. The Cwlwm Childcare and Early Years Workforce questionnaire 2016-17 was sent via email to all PACEY members and NDNA Cymru members in Wales and was promoted on social media. This was also shared with the Family Information Service and was promoted via email and social media. A total of 56 childcare providers participated in the survey and the following information has been summarized based on the responses. Please note this does not all

- 31% of settings who responded to the survey were funded by the local authority to provide Foundation Phase
- 21% of settings who responded to the survey were funded by the local authority to provide Flying Start
- 93% of all childcare providers who responded to the survey have a female workforce aged between 18-years - 60years +, 6% have a female workforce under the age of 18
- 2% of childcare settings have a male workforce aged between 41 - 60 years old
- 13% of settings have no qualifications
- 13% of settings hold either a Level 2 Childcare Qualification or Level 2 Playwork Qualification (a decrease of 3% from last 2015)
- 49% of settings hold either a Level 3 Childcare Qualification or Level 3 Playwork Qualification (a decrease of 10% from 2015)
- 23 % of settings hold either a Level 4 Childcare Qualification or Level 4 Playwork Qualification (an increase of 2% from 2015)
- 2 % % of settings hold a graduate qualification (a decrease of 1% from 2015)

The information from Cwylm reveals that over 70% of childcare settings who responded to the survey do not have training budget, and 43% of staff are not paid to attend training. This is an increase of 11% based on last year's survey. The demand for training delivered in Welsh has reduced since 2015 with only 2% of childcare settings requesting this preferred language, and there's a 6% increase for settings requiring training to be delivered through the medium of English (95% of childcare settings who responded to the survey).

Childcare settings who responded to the survey predominantly requested that training is delivered face to face (73%, an increase of 6% from 2015), however the number of settings requesting online training has also increased (45% compared to 34% during 2015).

It could be questioned that the choice of training delivery has altered due to the increased number of staff not being paid to attend training. However further consultation would need to be addressed to confirm this assumption.

Figure 87 summarises training requirements within the next 12 months based on the information collated by the Cwylm Partnership. Please note this does not effectively separate by childcare type, nor registration therefore the information does not conclusively inform us of where support is required.

Figure 87. Training requirements in next 12 months SASS data 2016

	Paediatric First Aid	Child Protection / Safeguarding	Early Years Practice	Health & Safety	Leadership & Management	Playwork	Food Hygiene	Business Support	IT/computer literacy
Total number of providers	17	20	12	20	6	11	15	8	10

Childcare providers who responded to the Cwylm survey show a significant increase in training requirements compared to responses in 2015, however this does not provide conclusive training requirements for all settings within Torfaen and a training audit will be conducted by the Workforce Development Officer for Torfaen County Borough Council during April 2017.

14. Results of Consultation with Stakeholders (as outlined in section 2)

Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team consulted with a number of stakeholders where appropriate in accordance of schedule 2 of the Statutory Guidance submitted by Welsh Government.

The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016, Regulations 6 and 7 prescribe the persons who local authorities could consider consulting with and the persons they must consult in preparing the assessment, including persons representing those with an interest in childcare.

The following analysis presents the findings conducted by Torfaen Family Information Service and the Childcare Team.

14.1 Consultation with Schools

Torfaen County Borough Council has sought to consult with schools to identify concerns and gaps within childcare that might impact their school in a positive or negative stance. More specifically Torfaen County Borough consulted with schools to identify local knowledge of childcare and investigate the potential of developing new childcare provisions.

Methodology

A total of 34 schools were sent an electronic questionnaire developed by Torfaen County Borough Council Childcare Team (Appendix 15) from the Education Department for Torfaen County Borough Council. A reminder email was further sent prior to the closing date.

In total, respondents from 9 schools participated, all questionnaires were returned via email. Each survey was referenced, quantitative responses were inputted into a spreadsheet and tables were produced (Appendix 15). Qualitative responses were analysed and recorded (Appendix 15). Figure 88 shows the geographical distribution of school responses

Respondents were separated and categorized as;

- Primary Schools (Age range 3/4 – 11 years)
- 1 Welsh Medium Primary School (Age range 3/4 – 11 years)

➤ 1 Comprehensive (Age range 11 - 16 years)

Figure 88 Geographical distribution of school responses.

Area LSOA	Primary	Welsh Medium	Comprehensive
Abersychan 3	1		
Abersychan1		1	
Croesyceiliog North 1	1		
Fairwater 1			1
Llantarnam 3	1		
Llanyrafon North	1		
Panteg 2	1		
Pontnewydd2	1		
St. Cadocs and Penygarn	1		
Totals	7	1	1

All respondents have 1 or more childcare provision within their school setting. With the majority of these being a free breakfast initiative and after school clubs (Annex 15)

78% of schools who responded are aware of local childcare provision within their area, and identifying childminders as the most recognisable childcare provision used outside of school. However two schools acknowledged they knew of no childcare provision in the area. It could be proposed that this is due to the age ranges of the children at the school or lack of provision within the area. The same schools also reported that they were unsure if there was sufficient childcare available locally to cater for the needs of the families that attend their schools.

44% of respondents believe there is sufficient childcare locally to meet the needs of families who attend their school. However 33% of respondents identified a lack of childcare within the local area, and identifying issues such as;

- Lack of Welsh medium provision
- Waiting lists at after school clubs
- Intervening to help parents access after school and wrap around provisions

Despite the suggestive improvements, over half of the respondents revealed that families do not approach them with regards to childcare. (Annex 15), however 45% of schools reported that families request information mainly about after school clubs, wrap around and Flying Start provisions.

Figure 89 shows the availability of space to create a new childcare provision within the school grounds

Figure 89 Availability of future childcare provision on site

Area LSOA	Yes	No	Don't know
Abersychan 3			1
Abersychan1	1		
Croesyceiliog North 1		1	
Fairwater 1	1		
Llantarnam 3		1	
Llanyrafon North		1	
Panteg 2		1	
Pontnewydd2	1		
St. Cadocs and Penygarn	1		
Totals	4	4	1

45% of schools who responded identified that they had adequate space to potentially create a new childcare provision, suggesting the development of new preschool provision and afterschool club.

“We have an outbuilding which is currently used for Playgroup and wraparound. This building could also be used for Flying Start.”
“After school club – space is available”

One school has the capacity to potentially develop a new childcare provision, however they express concerns over demand within its locality.

“Space would be available pre and post school, but there is no demand. One family, who pick up all three children after four o’clock, have them access the library until 4pm then they wait in reception”

Schools were consulted over the affordability of childcare and the likelihood of families taking up childcare if it was offered. Responses were as follows;

- We use an After School Club which is run by Isobel Yacomen. This is taken up by working parents. However, if a free after school facility could be offered, I think many more parents would access it.
- Very likely
- Likely
- Again, there is no demand; the canteen is available, and staffed, from 08.00am and High School pupils that are not picked up by their parents after school make their own way home.
- Families would take up childcare if it was favourable prices and of good quality.
- Currently parents take advantage of the ASC and Holiday Club - these facilities are well supported despite incurring costs. When prospective parents make enquiries about sending their child to us, one of the questions we are asked is if there if After School provision.
- Working parents are receptive to childcare costs.

Responses may indicate that schools believe the affordability of childcare is dependent on the take up, however several schools report that their afters school provisions are widely used and in demand, despite the rise in costs. However improvement suggestions include the possibility of opening a free after school club which would generate interest amongst families.

14.2 Consultation with Employers

Torfaen County Borough Council has sought to consult with employers to identify concerns and gaps within childcare that might impact their organisation in a positive or negative stance. More specifically, Torfaen County Borough Council seek to consider employers views on the demand for childcare, the quality and accessibility of childcare, and the affordability of childcare.

Torfaen County Borough Council also sought to identify employee based benefits such as flexible working arrangements and the use of childcare related benefits such as Childcare Vouchers and Working Tax Credits. The analyses below was collated and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service.

Methodology

Torfaen County Borough Council's Economy, Enterprise and Environment Team were consulted via email to contact employers within Torfaen through their business network.

Over 500 employers were sent an electronic questionnaire (Annex 16) by the Economy, Enterprise and Environment Team. Additional questionnaires were also sent to members within Torfaen County Borough Councils Employability Team for distribution.

Further promotion of the employers questionnaire was published bilingually online at <http://www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk/en/Welcome-Zone/News/2016/October/Childcare-Sufficiency-Assessment.aspx> English and <http://www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk/cy/Welcome-Zone/News/2016/October/Childcare-Sufficiency-Assessment.aspx> Welsh

In total, respondents from 8 organisations participated. All responded by self-completion and returned via email. Responses were separated into size categories. Organisation size was identified by on the number of employees within the business. These consisted of;

Small sized organisations (employing 20 and below employees)

Medium sized organisations (employing 21 – 50 employees)

Large sized organisations (employing 50+ employees)

Each survey was referenced, quantitative responses were inputted into a spreadsheet and tables were produced by size and Geographical area. Qualitative responses were analysed and recorded.

Responses were further recorded and analysed to highlight employers in the Private Sector Public, Sector and Third Sector. 5 Employers who participated in the survey were from the Private Sector (4 small and 1 medium sized organisations), 1 from the Public Sector (1 large organisation) and 2 from the Third Sector (1 small and large sized organisations).

Summary of combined results and geographical distribution

Geographical distribution amongst the employer's consultation revealed that all small businesses (4) were located within the Cwmbran area, and the only two largest businesses that took part in the survey were located within the Pontypool area. No responses were received by any employers within the Blaenavon area.

Employers within the Pontypool area offer a number of flexible working arrangements for employees. With Part-time, flexi-time, phased return to work, voluntary reduced working time, term-time/school hours, home working (for managers as stated by one small employer), career break and temporality reduced hours being the most common amongst both large organisations. Both large employers within the Pontypool area have the largest female workforce than any of employer who responded to the survey, with both reporting over 70% of the workforce being female which equates to 2872 females.

1 large employer within the Pontypool area experienced a lot of problems with employees taking up or continuing employment, however childcare is only related to this in slight instances.

Improvements to childcare to help with the recruitment and retention of staff in the Pontypool area include;

- More flexible sessions e.g. drop ins or a few hours
- More affordable
- Childcare available at different times

Over half of employers in Pontypool have experienced some problems with employees not continuing employment following maternity / paternity leave.

The proposal for 30 hours free childcare by the Government was the only concern identified about the childcare market in the near future. It was considered that this may have an impact on income to private childcare settings within the Pontypool area.

62% of employers who responded to the survey are based within the Cwmbran area with 80% of these being small organisations and the majority residing within the Llantarnam area or Cwmbran.

The majority of employers located in Cwmbran who participated in the study provide one or more flexible working arrangements. Most frequently offered include:

- Part-time
- Flexi-time
- Temporarily reduced hours

One small sized organisation within the Cwmbran area does not offer flexible working arrangements, however they report slight problems with the retention and recruitment of staff, and that childcare has slightly contributed to this. Other organisations within this area reported no problems with employees returning from maternity/paternity leave.

Improvement suggestions to childcare to aid the recruitment and retention of staff includes:

- More affordable
- More Welsh Language

Only one employer from the Cwmbran area currently provides childcare vouchers as a childcare related benefit, however the take up for this benefit is relatively low. Other organisations reported that they are thinking about providing information on financial assistance towards childcare, childcare vouchers, information about childcare provision and Working Tax Credits.

No concerns about the childcare market now and in the future are identified by any employers within the Cwmbran area, however one small organisation within the Llantarnam area requested more after school facilities.

Summary of Private Sector organisations

- 80% of small employers who responded to the survey are from the Private Sector
- All organisations have a female workforce between 1-100
- 80% of employees within the private sector have children 14 years and under
- All offer 1 or more flexible working arrangements, including part time hours, temporarily reduced hours, home working, phased return to work, voluntary reduced working time
- 20% have experienced some problems with employees taking up or continuing work, however 80% report that they do not experience problems with employees returning to work following maternity/paternity leave
- 80% of organisations have reported that childcare has not been a barrier for some employees taking up or continuing work
- It is unsure if employers in this sector believe there is sufficient childcare, however comments indicate that there is suitable childcare available for families and a request for more after school activities
- Only 2 employers offer childcare related benefits, but indicate they are considering future use. Take up of these benefits are low.
- One employer (a registered childcare setting) offers free childcare to those at management positions as a “perk” of employment due to average salaries. Currently no staff within the setting have children but one grandchild attends free of charge.
- The introduction of 30 hours free childcare is a concern from one private employer. It is considered a worry if the free initiative is only offered to state nurseries, and if additional after school clubs are created within schools. This will have a financial implication on the business.

Summary of Public Sector organisations

- Of 1 large employers 25% of the workforce are female , it is unknown how many employees have children under 14 years of age
- Offers 12 flexible working arrangements
- No experience of problems with staff taking up or continuing with employment. However it is indicated that childcare has ‘slightly’ contributed to the take up or continuing of employment. It was further reported that slight problems have occurred with employees continuing work following maternity/paternity leave.
- Suggestive improvements to childcare included ‘more flexible sessions’, ‘more affordable’, ‘playscheme’.
- Childcare vouchers are the main and only childcare related benefit offered, the take up is moderate

Summary of Third Sector organisations

- 100% of third sector organisations have a workforce of 20+ female employees
- 50% report that employees have children under the age of 14 years
- All third sector organisations who responded to the survey offer one or more flexible working arrangements with Flexi Time being the most common working arrangement
- 50% of third sector organisations experience a lot of problems with employees taking up or continuing work – 50% report none
- 50% indicate that childcare is a slight factor in the taking up or continuing employment
- 50% believe there is sufficient childcare provision, however the main childcare improvements to help recruit and retain staff include affordable childcare, flexible sessions, available at different times, more Welsh language / Bilingual provision
- No third sector organisations experience problems with employees continuing work following maternity leave / paternity leave and have no concerns with the current childcare market now and in the future.

Strengths

- Limited concerns about the childcare market in Torfaen now and in the future, with reference being made to Welsh Government's proposal of 30 hours free childcare for 3 to 4 year olds. A minority of experiences identifying childcare as being a factor in the recruitment and retention of staff
- The majority of employers who responded to the survey offer flexible working arrangements

Weaknesses

- A minority of employers offer childcare related benefits, with childcare vouchers being the most frequently offered
- The majority of employers are unsure if there is sufficient childcare within Torfaen and many do not provide employees with information about childcare provision
- No responses from employers within the Blaenavon area
- Low response rate. The information supplied cannot be considered a true reflection for all employers within Torfaen and should be treated as not statistically significant.

14.3 Consultation with Jobcentre Plus

Methodology

Torfaen County Borough Council consulted with Jobcentre Plus to identify any childcare barriers with those seeking employment. Jobcentre Plus were sent questions as prepared for the consultation with stake holders (Annex 24) and a response was received from a representative of the Parents, Childcare and Employment project (PaCE). Please note the results are based on a representative from the Pontypool area and therefore cannot be assumed this is a true representation for the Torfaen area. Despite multiple attempts, Torfaen County Borough Council were unable to obtain an overall response from JCP. The following analysis was collated and reported by Torfaen Family Information Service

Summary of consultation with Jobcentre Plus

What are your views on childcare within Torfaen?

- The availability of childcare over the weekend period was identified as a main barrier for lone parents when seeking employment.
- Gaps in Nursery provision within the Pontnewydd and New Inn area, however it has not been stipulated if the gap in provision is for private day nursery that caters for the 0 - 5 year olds or local education places for 3 - 4 year olds.
- Lack of childcare options within the Blaenavon area (no registered childminders), which has detrimental effect on families who have transport limitations. It is considered that some families will reject employment opportunities due to the travel implications out of the Blaenavon area.

What is your opinion on childcare for children with;

Working parents

- Problems have been identified for parents whose children attend state nurseries and playgroups. These provisions are not open during school holidays and parents struggle to seek alternative childcare arrangements.
- Shift workers experience difficulty in becoming flexible when their child/children are taken unwell and need to be collected from the childcare setting. It was highlighted that some childcare providers will request the children to be taken home to prevent

further illness within the childcare setting. Shift workers within production operatives are less likely to adopt flexible working arrangements.

- Zero hour contracts have been identified as a main financial problem for working parents using childcare. It is considered that some nurseries are not able to offer flexible childcare options and parents often pay for childcare during the week when not required. This may result in some families' not accepting terms and conditions for employment.

Parents seeking work or training opportunities

- Lack of early morning provision within schools, nurseries and breakfast clubs and limited wrap around/after school facilities for those attending training/accepting employment between 7.00am-8.00am or 4.30pm finish.

Unemployed households

- Affordability of childcare and lack of knowledge on the financial help available identified as a main barrier.

Low Income Families

- Financial restraints prevent low income families from using childcare

Lone parents

- Lone parents experience a number of barriers accessing childcare, these include lack of trust, financial constraints and emotional issues.

Families from ethnic minority backgrounds

- Cultural issues can make choosing and accessing childcare difficult. However examples are not specified.

Families with children who have a special educational needs or disability.

- Parents have reported instances where they have been unable to access childcare due the inability to cater for specific individual needs.

Welsh Medium

- No barriers have been identified with families being supported by JCP, however it has been reported that there is limited places available.

What, if any, improvements can be made to Childcare within Torfaen?

- Affordable childcare for 52 weeks of the year

14.4 Consultation with Children and Young People within open access play provisions.

Methodology

Torfaen Play Service carried out consultations with a total of 98 children and young people in 11 different open access play settings, across the borough, on behalf of Torfaen Family Information Service during November 2016. The settings were distributed over the three main town areas of Torfaen in Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran.

The children and young were asked a series of questions as detailed in Annex 19 to abstract their views about their parent's employment status; if they attend childcare and if so, what type of childcare; and the type of activities they take part in. Full consultation results can also be found in Annex 19.

Figure 90 represents the number of children consulted across the areas

Figure 90. No of children consulted TCBC

Play Club	Blaenavon	Pontypool	Cwmbran
Blaenavon Heritage School	6		
Garn Rugby Club Varteg		8	
Cold Barn Farm Trevethin		9	
Tranch Road Wainfelin		9	
ICC All 2 play 4			7
Oakfield			14
Victory Church			30
Cockerel Club Greenmeadow			7
Wood Club Henllys			2
Outreach at Monow Court Thornhill			6

Summary of the consultation with children and young people

Based on the responses from the children and young people who participated in the in the consultation, it was identified that:

- 86% stated that their parents worked.
- 38% attended breakfast club – although it is uncertain whether this was childcare provision or a Free Breakfast Initiative provided by the school.
- 29% attended after school club (in school) - it was not identified whether this was onsite childcare or after school activities provided by the school.
- 71% attended playscheme during the summer holidays compared to 0% during the remainder of the school holidays. 32% of children and young people consulted stated they were cared for by family or friends during these periods.
- Outdoor activities were the most popular for those who attended summer playschemes (22%).
- Only 12% of those consulted used childminders for childcare provision.

Views about childcare

Children and young people were consulted about childcare to highlight their views on the activities they participate in.

Children and young people in the Blaenavon area identified that they participated in arts and mindfulness during the breakfast and afterschool provisions. Activities enjoyed during the summer playschemes included;

- Playing games
- Going outside
- Playing the alien game
- Tag

- Dodgeball
- Playing catch

No children or young people who participated in the consultation access a childminder provision.

Children and young people within the Pontypool area identified a number of activities they participated in during breakfast including both indoor and outdoor activities, and socialisation with their friends. Children and young people were able to identify a number of active activities such as playing outside, playing rugby/football, but equally identified a number of technical activities such as Jenga, speed cups, table tennis, and playing with magnetic items. Children and young people further reported that there were facilities to eat breakfast and spend time reading, colouring and drawing.

Those who attended afterschool club in the Pontypool area reported a variety of indoor activities such as Lego, chess, cookery and performing arts. Outdoor activities included gardening, football, netball, rugby, playing group games and parkour.

Activities enjoyed during the summer playschemes in the Pontypool area included;

- Play in the Park
- Painting
- Clay and Arts and Crafts
- Friends (I went to one a couple of years ago but I didn't know there were ones close enough this year for me to go to)
- Sweets
- Face Painting
- Bouncy Castle
- Bulldog and outdoor games
- Parachute games
- Football
- Chess

Three children/young people residing in the Pontypool area access a childminder and participate in activities such as playing with friends and dog walking.

The majority of the children and young people who were consulted in the Cwmbran area reported of indoor activities in the before school club provisions. Activities included art and crafts, reading, playing games with play leaders, socialising with friends, assisting with the preparation of activities and eating breakfast.

Afterschool club activities are varied amongst the responses given by children and young people in the Cwmbran area. Activities include a mixture of reading, gardening, forest schools, country dancing, football, judo, play outside, art, newspaper club, singing in choir and playing rugby.

Activities enjoyed during the summer playschemes in the Cwmbran area included;

- Having fun and playing outdoors
- Playing games with friends
- Football/Rugby/American Football
- Tag and Hide and Seek
- Swimming
- Playing pool
- Friendly leaders
- Games consoles

Children and young people within the Cwmbran area who access a childminder reported that they play with friends, electric car games, consoles, and visit town.

Strengths and weaknesses

Although the children and young people are descriptive in the activities they participate in, it is uncertain if they are in relation to formal childcare provisions or afterschool activities provided within the schools.

It is apparent that the children and young people who participated in the consultation enjoy attending the childcare provisions with their friends. Several references are made to socialisation and the enjoyment of shared activities. However one child/young person reported that they did not know of the provision that they could have attended.

14.5 Consultation with Children and Young People attending registered childcare provisions.

Methodology

Torfaen Public Services Support Unit (PSSU) carried out consultations with a total of 60 children and young people aged between 1 and 10 years old in 4 different registered childcare provisions, across the borough, on behalf of Torfaen Family Information Service during November and December 2016. The settings consisted of two after school clubs (ages 5 - 10years and 7 - 10 years) a day nursery (ages 1 - 5 years) in the Cwmbran area, and a playgroup (ages 2 - 4 years) within the Pontypool area.

The Participation and Research Officer for the PSSU was introduced to the children and young people and explained that the visit was to engage about their views on the childcare setting they attend.

Children were issued paper 'smiley faces / sad faces' and asked to place them on specific items and activities they enjoyed or dislikes. The children were also given the opportunity to express their opinions verbally. To conclude the consultation, children and young people participated in a group discussion to suggest improvements needed in the childcare setting. All responses were documented and summarised. This procedure was replicated at all of the four settings.

Summary of the consultation with Children and Young People attending registered childcare provisions

Children and young people who participated in the consultation revealed a number of positive activities that they enjoyed while attending childcare. Preferred activities as identified by the children and young people at all settings included;

- Art box, Colouring, Creative crafts
- Large toys: Castle, Garage, Truck, Pirate ship
- Puzzles
- Interactive/digital toys: child-friendly cameras, computers

- Snack time: this was identified as a popular activity at all provisions. In particular the children liked the responsibility of choosing what's on the menu and preparing the food. They also appreciated the time they had sitting down as a group.

- Watching TV

- Educational games, learning through play, Welsh boards, making biscuits

- Sensory games/equipment: making play dough, sorting colours
- Team games: Air hockey, parachute games

The children and young people also identified specific items/areas within the childcare setting that they particularly enjoyed, these included;

- Staff members – all children put a ‘smiley face’ on staff within the childcare setting
- The garden/outside area – all children identified this a favourite at their setting
- Dressing up box - the children described how they enjoy using their imaginations
- Participating in organised activities such as ‘movie night’
- Reading area: books (cushions / sleep area) very popular at all provisions visited
- Children who attended a club in a school enjoyed using the school hall (or larger space) for games. They liked the opportunity to be together in a big group, play large group games and sing

Children and young people attending the childcare settings expressed their fondness for playing with their friends. A statement that is also echoed by the children and young people who attending the open access play clubs. A number of children also reported that they had made friends while attending their club and that they had created nicknames for each other.

Children and young people who participated in the consultation were also requested to place ‘sad faces’ on things they did not like. Predominantly it was reported that the children found this task difficult but identified that they didn’t enjoy cleaning and the ‘time out’ chair.

A group discussion concluded the consultation with children and young people having the opportunity to share views on improvements that could be made to the childcare setting. Improvement suggestions were identified as;

- More variety of items in the dressing up box
- More age appropriate play equipment. Some children/young people reported items as ‘childish’
- Children/young people who attended a provision in a demountable building on a school site reported that they felt the space was small and they are unable to access the outdoor areas to play.
- Some children/young people further reported that occasionally they missed certain activities at club due to other commitments (such as after-school activities)

The consultation with children and young people highlights that the majority of children struggled to identify activities and specific items that they dislike at childcare. Children and young people thoroughly enjoyed participating in the consultation by expressing their views and having their 'voice heard'.

Reported 'likes' amongst all childcare settings included the children/young people's fondness for staff, going outside, the quiet areas and creative/educational play. Children and young people who participated in the consultation further addressed the need for improvements in variety of outdoor play equipment and additional age-appropriate games. The majority of constructive improvement suggestions were identified by the older age groups attending the settings.

14.6 Consultation with Stakeholders and Core Aim One

This report presents an analysis of the findings from the consultation with National Childcare Umbrella Organisations based within Torfaen as well as Core Aim One.

Torfaen County Borough Council has sought to consult with national umbrella organisations and Core Aim One members to gather the views and experiences of key stakeholders on childcare and on how childcare may be improved in Torfaen. More specifically, for Torfaen County Borough Council to seek umbrella organisations and Core Aim members views on childcare, the quality and accessibility of childcare, and the affordability of childcare.

Methodology:

The five national childcare umbrella organisations consulted with via the CWLWM partnership during November/December 2016, these included;

- Wales Pre-school Playgroup Association (WPPA)
- Pacey
- Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC)
- National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)
- Mudiad Meithrin (MM)
- Torfaen Play Service (Torfaen County Borough Council)

Questionnaires were also sent to Core Aim 1 members.

Each umbrella organisation and Core Aim 1 group member were sent an electronic questionnaire on behalf of the Early Years Team. Torfaen County Borough Council drew upon Umbrella Organisations currently working in partnership with the Council. Some stakeholders work across and beyond the authority and some felt limited in what they could contribute, therefore some responses yielded more information than others. The following analysis was collated and reported by the Childcare Team.

Consultation Results - Childcare market

Umbrella organisations were asked to rate the current childcare market with respect to a number of areas including; quality of provision, range of provision, number of places, affordability, flexibility, opening times, location and Bilingual/Welsh provision.

Figure 91. Ratings of childcare market

	Stakeholder 1	Stakeholder 2	Stakeholder 3	Stakeholder 4	Stakeholder 5	Results
Quality of provision	Good	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	40% good
Range of providers	Good	No comment	No comment	No comment	Satisfactory	20% good 20% satisfactory
Number of places	Don't know	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	20% don't know 20% good
Affordability	Satisfactory	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	20% good 20% satisfactory
Flexibility of provision and session	Satisfactory	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	20% good 20% satisfactory
Suitability of opening times	Good	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	40% good
Location and accessibility of childcare	Good	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	40% good
Bilingual/Welsh provision	Poor	No comment	No comment	No comment	Good	20% poor 20% good

Stakeholders were asked to describe their thoughts on the current childcare market. However, as they support specific childcare types it was considered inappropriate to comment as this does not fall within their specific remit of support. In addition to this the Umbrella Organisations are not funded for a childcare development worker to visit groups regularly to assess this information.

One participant did not have data for all types of childcare, however they are aware that the number of non-maintained full day care settings in Torfaen is 34, and 13 currently receive Foundation Phase funding. CSSIW data annual report 2014-15: the rate of children's day care place per population aged under 8 at 31st March 2015 was 35.6 with population estimates ONS mid-year 2014, 8,730.

One participant felt that following a Cwllwm Business Assessment it was evident that a large number of childcare providers have taken part in a Quality Assurance Scheme award to raise the national minimum standards. Whilst another provider stated the importance of reaccreditation, "20 providers have achieved the Quality for All Award, 12 of these being highly commended. Providers who hold the award are assessed for re-accreditation annually, which ensures that those holding the award are operating above the minimum current requirements and continually striving to improve their service." One participant stated their providers are also funded to deliver Flying Start and are currently receiving funding to complete their QA.

In addition to participating in Quality Assurance Award schemes and due to this being a requirement of the service level agreement funded through Flying Start, one participant felt funding should be offered to all providers which would help develop and improve provider's services. It was further considered that this may offer a more consistent level of support, and ensure the sustainability of settings.

From a recent publicised survey one participant felt that childcare providers were struggling to stay in business due to increasing costs and fewer children taking up places. They also felt that business costs were rising, "especially with the National Living Wage in April set to result in a 13% rise in pay roll costs, says one stakeholder Wales Annual Survey 2016."

One participant felt the numbers of children attending have dropped in number "this year 67% occupancy on average, compared with 69% last year, due to more children starting school at three and unavoidable fee increases making childcare less affordable for parents."

Business confidence has also been affected with "fewer nurseries reported to be confident, just 41% compared with 60% last year."

One participant felt that by no longer having their own Childcare Development Officers funded through the Out of School Childcare Grant they no longer have in-depth knowledge of childcare within the Local Authority.

One participant stated that in order to sustain current and create new childcare, where needed, there needed to be continued funding to ensure sufficiency and in particular the Out of School Childcare Grant post April 2017. This would allow continued support to help childcare clubs become registered to support quality, affordability and sustainability.

One participant felt the Out of School Childcare Grant has seen the sector develop and grow over the last seven years, enabling parents and carers to return to work, extend working hours or return to training knowing their children are cared for in quality Out of School Childcare Clubs. The provision of the grant has also enabled the support of the childcare sector in what has been both a difficult financial period and a period of change. Ideally continued support via the grant should be on a three year cycle to enable a structured plan to be developed to maximise the use of this grant fund and enable it to maintain the sustainability of the current childcare settings and enable development where gaps have been identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Audits. Providing parents and carers with choice and flexibility in quality Out of School childcare settings and quality and safe play and learning opportunities for children.

One participant felt the Out of School Childcare Grant would also allow continued support to ensure all childcare clubs become registered. "Currently there are 243 unregistered and 38 non-registerable out of school settings across Wales (18% of all clubs) due to a range of reasons including lack of qualified staff. Such clubs are currently unable to access Playwork Apprenticeships and parents using them will not be able to access Tax Free Childcare or Working Tax/Universal Credits, which means affordability (and sustainability) and quality, is compromised. Ongoing on the ground support is required to encourage and provide practical help to clubs to register with CSSIW."

As well as support for registration, one participant felt that with the recent changes to the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to 12 years of age and in particular the introduction of the online SASS and the new judgement framework, there needed to be on the ground support from Childcare Development Officers (CDO's) to keep up with the changes.

One participant acknowledged the number of local authorities that fund local CDOs has reduced, as has the amount of funding. Stating provider's value on the ground support, "especially as providers constantly evolve and management and staff changes, providers need regular and ongoing support with regulatory, management and quality issues to remain sustainable and maintain quality." This could be attributed to reduced funding to support the sector. Continued funding would allow the Out Of School sector to be better represented and understood at a national level, provide continuity of a quality, established business support services and

staff expertise and knowledge, offer opportunities for innovation and partnership working to continually improve service delivery, enable new innovative projects, resources and toolkits, provide innovative, bespoke support from an independent organisation with which they have built trust.”

One participant recognised the need to increase out of school childcare particularly during holiday time and for older children (once they enter secondary school) however affordability was highlighted by a number of participants suggesting parents may be cutting back on holiday childcare, whilst acknowledging that sustainability also needed to be taken into consideration. “Anecdotally, many of our holiday clubs have reduced the number of days or the number of school holidays they run, expressing that they would open for longer with parental demand. We think that parents need holiday clubs, but not at the fees they are offered. However, with staff working all day long, holiday clubs are expensive to run and fees need to also be sustainable.”

In a recent survey conducted by one participant the following data was collated;

- 35% of parents surveyed wished to access more holiday care
- 17% of parents surveyed said that cost was a barrier to them accessing more childcare
- 30% of parents surveyed said that suitable holiday care was not available to them.

One participant noted that although they do not have a funded Childcare Development Officer visiting settings there is a Welsh Language Co-ordinator as well as a Foundation Phase Co-ordinator. Both are Welsh Government funded, working with individual groups across Wales to drive improvements in quality.

One participant stated the prices for childcare within Torfaen are fair and competitive, with a spread of settings across the county.

One participant felt that Torfaen recognised the importance of their particular type of childcare in terms of supporting the delivery of sufficient, accessible and quality childcare services, including providing unsocial hours for working parents and for families in need. Additional support such as providing briefing sessions, part funding the mandatory pre-registration training, as well as mentoring, providing flexibility of alternative methods of training and learning have also been recognised by this particular Umbrella Organisation.

One participant recognised that Torfaen uses their core offer of strategic support for Local Authorities and attend the LA Core Aim One meetings, thus being able to offer support on a strategic level as well as including the providers they represent in discussions.

One participant recognised the need for training as well as Continuous Professional Development (CPD), they acknowledged that Torfaen provide training course during the evenings as well as Saturday's which allows those practitioners who are unable to be released from settings the opportunities to access mandatory and CPD training. They also acknowledged that training is partly subsidised by Torfaen.

One participant stated all their settings have signed up to Torfaen Toy Library and acknowledged the many benefits it offers. "This offers enhanced opportunities to rotate toys and acquire specific resources that may be tailored to the needs of children."

One participant stated the various grants which are available within Torfaen, including a Start Up grant to support new registrations, a contribution to class room based or online training, as well as an additional grant once the provider has become registered, which includes membership, public liability insurance, essential paperwork and funding to purchase equipment and resources. An additional grant was also highlighted to newly registered providers who can evidence their first contract in order to support their first few months of becoming registered. However they also noted this is likely to be reduced or abolished in the coming months. They did recognise that both sustainability and quality were therefore supported within Torfaen. Sustainability funding was also mentioned however one participant felt there was a need to promote it more widely by the Local Authority.

One participant highlighted Assisted Places as supporting parents to return to work or looking for work, as well as providing 1:1 support for children with additional needs, which have been referred by a professional. They stated that the assisted places grant supports sustainability as it is more likely to meet the needs of individual children's needs, "This is also likely to support better outcomes for children through providing continuity of care that meets children's needs linked to well-being."

One participant identified they had some childcare providers funded to deliver Flying Start and have been financially supported to complete their own Quality Assurance award in which their providers are now regularly attending their local regional meetings, which offers peer to peer support. In addition to this they highlighted the fact that Torfaen had worked with their providers to agree a training work plan, which is in line with Flying Start requirements, which has provided support and opportunities to upskill. These have been held in the evenings to fit in with work commitments. This has ensured that the providers have their voice heard and to feel involved. However it was noted this type of support was for only for Flying Start providers and that by offering to all childcare providers the same upskilling opportunities across the county would ensure a more consistent level of support.

One participant highlighted they did not support any providers for Foundation Phase provision, but felt that there should be opportunities for their providers to access funding if they meet defined criteria. "We understand the cost implications of using childminders to provide funded services but believe that the outcomes for children should be central to any decisions made."

One participant noted that the Family Information Service include detailed information about their service which includes additional information, which can meet specific needs. “Detailed information for parents in the Family Information Service (FIS) Childcare Directory, which includes an ‘Additional Information’ section to add personalised text to promote their service to meet the needs of families. For example, if they have particular experience that would support children with additional needs, qualifications or other relevant experience. The outcome of this is that providers have the opportunity to include information for example relating to quality or unique selling points which can support the sustainability of services through appropriate marketing and promotion.

One participant noted that the Family Information Service uses Facebook to supports engagement and promotion of services, which indirectly promotes the professionalism of childcare providers and sustainability of services.

One participant highlighted the continued need for Torfaen CBC to promote the importance of using registered childcare, the outcome of which will support affordability for families and sustainability of existing childcare settings. As well as highlighting to families and the general community the impact of recent changes to regulation and that childcare provided for under 12’s now neds to be registered.

Specific improvement suggestions for how childcare could better meet these groups’ needs.

Improvements for low income families

A number of participants highlighted the Welsh Government’s ambition to support children and families by extending free early year’s education and childcare to 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year and the fact they would hope this would support low income families. “The Welsh Government’s childcare offer will, when rolled out, help to tackle poverty especially for those who experience “in-work” poverty across the whole of Wales.”

One participant stated the need for additional financial support which would benefit low income families needing support for childcare. “This is being partly met by the PaCE project.”

Financial support would benefit low income families, who need support for childcare in the early weeks of starting a new job.”

One participant highlighted the need for additional support for providers to understand and support specific needs of low income families.

One participant felt there should be quality, affordable childcare in every community that wants one, as well as funding from the Out of School Childcare grant which can support out of school childcare, which can lead to improved accessibility for low income families. Funds for assisted places are limited and therefore need to be prioritised and may result in some children missing much needed opportunities for socialising and learning through play. They highlighted this could be achieved through;

- Ensuring there is sufficient training for staff to achieve qualifications, which will allow settings to become or remain registered
- Supporting settings to become registered with CSSIW, which allows parents to access funding for childcare fees such as Childcare Element of Working Families Tax Credits, Universal credit and the soon to be introduced Tax Free Childcare

One participant stated the need for sufficient funding for an Assisted Places scheme in each county, which allows children from low income families the opportunity to socialise, have access to toys, resources etc. that may not be available at home. The children are also able to play and form friendships outside of the school day, benefiting from healthy snacks and the opportunity to try new foods again they may not have at home, as well as key messages from the settings taken back to the family home. Parents were also highlighted as benefitting from the Assisted Places scheme in terms of the ability to raise aspirations if returning to work or training or extending their working hours, thus potentially increasing the family income which may be spent in the local community.

One participant highlighted the fact that some of the Assisted Places schemes have been closed to previous users and is now only aimed at Families First eligible families who are a long way from returning to the job market, which means that low income families may be falling into poverty.

“This has left a gap that low income families have fallen into, therefore reducing their prospects and leaving children living in poverty.”

One participant stated that if Local Authorities do fund Assisted Places, they may only do so for 1 or 2 days per week. “Some only fund possibly 1 or 2 days per week which reduces the benefit especially to low income working parents.”

One participant stated if community buildings and schools were available at reasonable rates this would make the childcare settings more sustainable and affordable for low income families.

“Local authorities should not look to earn lost revenue by increasing rent for these buildings and instead should cap the rate to ensure clubs run both affordably and sustainably.”

One participant highlighted the need for funding quality activities that would engage, inspire imagination and help children learn through play, which will make the setting more attractive and sustainable. “Encouraging settings to strive for and consistently improve quality and backing it up with funding to achieve this is important.”

One participant stated the need for a national marketing campaign on the benefits and opportunities of childcare. “Would not only benefit settings but provide food for thought for parents who might not otherwise access childcare.”

One participant highlighted the need for affordable childcare is integral to stop increasing poverty levels.

One participant stated that not all families live in a Flying Start area and are able to access funded childcare, even though the children would benefit from quality childcare.

Improvements for families with children with disabilities

One participant was aware that some other childcare organisations no longer have the Assisted Places scheme, meaning it is difficult to support families with children with disabilities.

One participant felt that if children needing one to one support to access childcare, the childcare provider would have to meet this cost, who struggle to remain sustainable or the child is unable to attend the setting. They highlighted that funding has decreased over the years, however wherever possible children with additional needs should be integrated into childcare settings. “Where children have been integrated into childcare settings they have been shown to thrive and also have positive effects on children in the same setting who do not have any additional needs. This good practice should be highlighted and shared with other settings to demonstrate how it can be achieved.”

One participant felt that childcare settings lack the confidence to care children with additional needs, stating that in order for staff to understand the need and how to make their settings accessible and inclusive requires funding to run appropriate training as well as information sessions. In addition to this the settings also need funding to make alterations in order to accommodate children with additional needs. “Funding also needs to be available for minor venue alterations to enable a childcare setting to offer care for children with additional needs.”

Where “Extra Hands” grants are available several participants stated that childcare settings are able to employ a 1:1 member of staff, however this is limited to only some Local Authorities. “The scheme needs to be widespread across Wales with all childcare settings encouraged to take children with additional needs. Some local authorities fund Extra Hands from their allocation of Out of School

Childcare Grant but this is not consistent across Wales.” This funding enables settings to be sustainable, where they may otherwise struggle to employ additional one to one staff. Where funding is not available it was highlighted as being an area of concern and will not be helped by the introduction of the 30 hour offer as current demand for such services are not always met under current arrangements. “This is despite the fact that early intervention is seen as key in a child's development and eventual achievement later on.”

One participant felt that practitioners need ongoing support and training, “So they can optimise the opportunities for children with disabilities and the more training offered, the better.”

Flying Start and Families First were named as being programmes which support families with children who have additional learning needs, but they also identified there is a gap in terms of working families accessing childcare for their children.

One participant noted that they felt families who have children with disabilities find it harder to access childcare. They are aware that childcare provision is available for those children with a higher level of disabilities linked to Crownbridge school, however, the spaces for children with mild additional needs is limited.

One participant stated that all their supported settings have inclusion policies in place.

Improvements for working families

Several participants noted they hoped that by extending free early year's education and childcare to 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year would support low income families. They added that they felt the Welsh Government recognised the importance of a mixed economy in childcare and the contribution that will be needed from the private and voluntary sector to ensure high quality, flexible, accessible and affordable early learning and childcare to enable them to achieve the 30 hour commitment.

Another participant commented that improvements will need to be made for those parents working more than 16 hours per week, including flexible opening hours and flexible models of childcare. This is to ensure that children can enjoy the childcare opportunities with minimum disruption, as well as informing the parents the choice of options available. “One model might be playgroup for the education entitlement and a childminder to wrap around the rest of the parent's working day.”

Those working less than 16 hours may be helped by providers charging hourly rates, but this may not be practical for all providers, as it may threaten sustainability.

In order for parents/carers to work, return to work or train with a view to returning to work, one participant commented that parents/carers needed to be sure their children are safe and well cared for in a quality run childcare setting and if this is not the case parents/carers who are required to return to work/look for work will not do so. Childcare should be accessible, affordable and flexible in order to meet parents/carers needs, as well as the setting being sustainable. For those parents returning to the job market all this needs to be in place to ensure and that childcare settings have enabled parents/carers to enter employment, extend working hours, train to improve job and promotion prospects as well as having peace of mind in order to focus whilst in work

“17% of parents surveyed reported that access to childcare had enabled them to get a new job, with 9% of their partners/spouses also accessing work.

20% of respondents had been able to increase their working hours with 17% of their partners/spouses also. “

One participant highlighted that there is not the flexibility for those families working atypical hours as well as making the setting unsustainable. Some families require childcare for more than 2 hours after school but these families are also often in the minority so an after school club cannot financially sustain running for an extra hour with 2 members of staff for possibly only 1 or 2 children. “Perhaps thought should be given to some subsidy for settings that remain open to cater for the small need? Continued Out of School Childcare Grant funding could be used for sustaining current childcare rather than developing new childcare.”

One participant highlighted the need for Childcare Business Development Officer Role to continue to provide support which will enable settings to register as well as providing funding to offer Play Work training for those working in unregistered settings. They highlighted the fact that parents cannot access help with childcare costs if a setting is not registered with CSSIW. By being registered it allows parents/carers the choice of quality childcare, safe in the knowledge their child is in a safe place with qualified staff.

One participant highlighted that the 2 out of 3 settings they support had extended hours, therefore met the needs of working families.

One participant stated that they felt not all childcare was located where parents wanted it, e.g. “one after school club is not on the same school site.”

One participant highlighted that working parents/carers rely heavily on childcare and the cost of childcare places a great strain on families. Financial support is available for those linked to Flying Start/Communities First areas however, those families who are not within remit struggle. In addition to this, an increasing amount of families rely on grandparents to provide unregulated childcare. There may be opportunity to explore providing free play awareness training for those grandparents providing unregulated childcare.

One participant identified that due to the changes in childcare regulations in April meant that the delivery of open access play provision had to be reassessed. Many families relied on the all-day open access playschemes as a form of childcare over the summer period. Due to none of the playschemes in Torfaen being registered this summer all playschemes ran for 1 hour and 59 minutes only. Many parents/carers experienced great difficulty identifying alternative and affordable childcare.

Improvements for families seeking work

Several participants specifically mentioned the PaCE project.

Whilst another highlighted the need for flexibility for the number of hours that childcare can be accessed will help, adding that the PaCE project will help by paying for childcare while parents are in training or seeking work. Childcare was cited as being a barrier to getting back into employment. However parents will also need financial support for childcare when attending interviews etc. and for the first few weeks of employment, stating there has been some effective models.

One participant commented on the need for settings to have help and support in order to register with CSSIW which in turn supports quality and allows working parents to access help with childcare costs. They felt there was some way to go to ensure that all settings become registered and some barriers to overcome. "Ongoing funding for Play work qualifications, funding to enable venue improvements, support across all counties for committees to complete paperwork".

One participant highlighted the need for up front subsidy of childcare places for those entering the workforce, which would ease the transition into employment. They felt childcare costs remained a significant barrier especially for those low income/lone parent/carers. "Anecdotally we have heard of single parents having to cease employment at the start of the summer holidays and regain employment in September or take out loans to cover summer childcare costs." They recommended offering free taster sessions to children in non-working families. They felt that this type of support should be linked with Flying Start. "Currently in Flying Start areas, parents enjoy free pre-school childcare and then there is no continuity of childcare as children start school in many areas as childcare is more difficult to establish and maintain in more deprived areas and the human and funding resources needed are greater."

From experience one participant recognised that childcare goes hand in hand with parents seeking training opportunities. Many partners in the Play Sufficiency Action Planning Group seek to identify childcare facilities when providing training. "Within the Dad and Me Forum, we have signposted dads to childcare providers in relation to them accessing training and further education."

One participant stated the settings they support are often looking for Welsh speakers to complete their level 3 or 5 qualification in their groups as they are often looking for Welsh speaking staff

Any further comments

One participant commented on the fact that in recent CSA's there is often a need for childcare in certain areas, but that in this CSA the question regarding willingness or ability to pay is absent. Should this be introduced it would give a stronger indication of where there is a need for childcare for working and training parents.

One participant stated that the Out of School Childcare grant use should be limited to the support of Out of School Childcare to ensure the continued sustainability of Out of School provision. They highlighted that where there funding for Out of School support had been withdrawn (including the Childcare Development Officers) there was a noticeable reduction in the amount of Out of School Childcare available. "The Out of School Childcare Grant enables clubs to be developed (new places grant), remain sustainable (sustainability grant), provide Assisted Places (for low income families) and Extra Hands (1-1 staffing for a child with additional needs) and all come with the support of an experienced Childcare Business Development Officer with the backing of organisational resources piloted and developed over many years in the childcare sector."

Development and sustainability of settings also creates and safeguards local jobs and improving the skills of Playworkers. Provision of funding for Playwork training for those who do not meet Progress for Success or the Welsh Government Work based Learning - Apprenticeships will remain key to the success of the childcare sector and to helping people to aspire to higher goals including raising their family out of in work poverty which blights the lives of low income families.

Potential routes to supporting new or increasing provision which may be needed in some localities subject to new housing or employment developments could be through more intelligent use of the planning system. At present the Planning system allows for the local planning authority to require developers to contribute towards meeting demands created by the new development. Schools already benefit from this approach where a new housing development may increase pressure on existing school provision which can be mitigated or alleviated through a financial contribution. Similarly, a new employment opportunity could potentially be required to support additional out of school childcare as part of its development approval.

For those parent/carers not in work, childcare is vital as it will enable parents/carers to access employment. This as a result may increase financial income and for some families this may potentially result in a higher quality of life.

Families from an ethnic background are not wide spread across Torfaen, however it is essential for childcare providers to be inclusive and provide for all, whilst breaking down some barriers such as promoting the value of quality childcare and supporting language difficulties.

Welsh Medium childcare is available and is supported by regular play provision through the medium of Welsh, however not all advertised Welsh language childcare are providing it through the means of Welsh Medium.

Key Findings:

Childcare market:

- Childcare providers are struggling to stay in business due to increasing costs and fewer children taking up childcare places. In addition the actual number of children attending has dropped from an average occupancy of 69% last year to 67% this year as a result of children starting school at three and the unavoidable fee increases. In addition business costs were rising due to the National Living Wage in April and is set to result in a 13% rise in pay roll costs.
- Business confidence has also decreased with fewer nurseries reporting to be confident.
- Quality Assurance award scheme funding should be awarded to all childcare providers and not necessarily just Flying Start providers. However it was evident that a larger number of childcare providers have taken part in a Quality Assurance award and the importance of gaining annual re-accreditation.
- Continued funding post 2017, in particular the Out of School Childcare grant, was necessary and would sustain and create new childcare provision and more importantly ensure unregistered out of school clubs to become registered to support quality, affordability and sustainability. It was also recommended that funding is on a three year cycle to maintain the sustainability of current childcare providers as well developing new provision where gaps have been identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
- 18% of all out of school providers across Wales are either unregistered or unable to register, meaning parents/carers are unable to access Tax Free Childcare or Working Tax Credit/Universal Credits, resulting in affordability, sustainability and quality are compromised. Ongoing on the ground support is required to provide practical support to help providers to register with CSSIW. In addition unregistered providers are unable to access Play Work Apprenticeships.

- To promote the importance of using registered childcare, which will support affordability for families and sustainability of existing childcare settings. As well as continued promotion of the recent changes to regulation and that childcare being provided for under 12's needs to be registered.
- Due to the recent changes with CSSIW registration and inspection, providers need on the ground staff to keep up with the changes. However by not having on the ground Childcare Development Officers participants felt they no longer have in-depth knowledge of childcare within the Local Authority, stating that provider's value on the ground support.
- To sustain out of school childcare and the need to increase out of school childcare during the school holiday times and for older children (secondary school aged children). However affordability remains a significant challenge for families.
- Assisted Places grant was identified as ensuring parity of opportunities across the sector, supporting sustainability and parental choice, as well as providing continuity of care that meets children's individual needs and is linked to well-being.
- Foundation Phase provision should be made accessible to all childcare providers, including home based providers, however with the understanding that there are costing implications but believe that the outcomes for the children should be central to any decisions made.
- Continued pre-registration training supported via the Childcare Development Officers giving providers a choice and the flexibility of alternative methods of learning and training.
- The need for Continuous Professional Development - that Torfaen provide training opportunities to meet the needs of providers by providing evening and Saturday training sessions. As well as part funding training courses and at the times which suit them.
- The need to use their core offer of strategic support for Local Authorities in joining them at their quarterly Core Aim One meetings, giving their providers a voice at a strategic level.
- To continue to offer the Toy Library.

- Family Information Service to continue to provide detailed information to meet the needs of individual family's needs. As well as using social media to support and promote services.
- Sustainability and Start Up grants were recognised as being supportive in terms of new registrations, with the outcome that sustainability and quality are supported.

Improvements for Low Income Families:

- Welsh Government support for children and families by extending free early years education and childcare to 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year would support low income families, especially those who experience in work poverty across the whole of Wales.
- Every community that wants one should have access to quality, affordable, childcare as well as funding from the Out of School Childcare grant, which can support out of school childcare. Enabling improved accessibility for low income families.
- Ensuring sufficient training for staff to enable them to achieve qualifications which will help settings become registered or remain registered with CSSIW. Thus allowing parents to access help with childcare such as childcare fees in the form of the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credits, Universal Credit and Tax Free Childcare.
- The need for community buildings and schools to be available at reasonable rates and that local authorities should cap the rate to ensure clubs run affordably and sustainably.
- The need to have sufficient funding through the Assisted Places scheme.
- Sufficient financial support would benefit low income families needing support for childcare in the early weeks of starting a new job, in particular recognising the work of the PaCE project.
- The need for funding quality activities that will engage children whilst in the setting would help settings to become more attractive and more sustainable.

- Providing a national marketing campaign on the benefits of childcare and the opportunities it can give to children who may not otherwise experience it, would not only benefit the settings but provide food for thought for the parents who might not otherwise access childcare.
- More support for practitioners to understand specific needs of low income families.
- Not all families live in a Flying Start area but their children would benefit from quality childcare.

Improvements for Families with Children with Disabilities

- Cutbacks have meant that provision for children with additional needs has reduced over the last few years and wherever possible children with additional needs should be integrated into current childcare settings.
- Providers who have children with additional needs are having to meet the costs to meet individual needs, thus struggling to remain sustainable, or the child cannot attend the setting due to it not being suitable for their needs. Therefore additional funding should also be made available for childcare settings to make minor venue alterations to enable a childcare setting to offer care for a child with additional needs.
- The introduction of the 30 hour offer would not help as current demand for services are not met, despite the fact that early intervention is seen to be key to a child's development.
- Practitioners lacked in confidence to care for children with additional needs and expressed the need for information sessions and for specialised training for staff to feel sufficiently informed and competent.
- Good practice should be disseminated to other childcare settings to demonstrate how integrating children with additional needs has shown them to thrive and have positive outcomes on those children who do not have additional needs but are in the same setting.

- Improvements for families with children with disabilities was an area of concern as it appears that children who need one to one support are not currently always able to access such support. They felt this would not improve when the 30 hour education/childcare offer is rolled out, as current demand for such services are not always met under current arrangements, as funding is limited.
- Some authorities offer additional grants such as Extra Hands which is an allocation from the Out of School Childcare Grant to employ one to one staff to meet the needs of children with additional needs. However this is not consistent across Wales.
- Working families find it difficult to access childcare for their children.

Improvements for Working Families

- By extending free early years education and childcare to 30 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year would support low income families. Welsh Government has recognised the importance of a mixed economy in childcare and the contribution that will be needed from the private and voluntary sector to ensure high quality, flexible, accessible and affordable early learning and childcare. Improvements for those who work over 16 hours per week would need to include flexible opening hours and flexible models of childcare that can be developed to ensure children can enjoy the opportunities with minimum disruption caused by attending a range of childcare options. With this in mind it is important that families know the types of childcare and what flexible options they may access to in their area or close to work, with minimum disruption. For those working less than 16 hours may be helped by providers charging hourly rates, which may not be practical and may threaten sustainability.
- Childcare providers were imperative for parents/carers to work, return to work or train with a view to returning to work.
- In order for parent/carers to return to work, train with a view to returning to work, parent/carers needed to be sure their children were safe and well cared for in a quality run childcare setting and if this was not the case would not do so.
- Childcare needs to be accessible, affordable and flexible to meet the needs of parents/carers as well as the childcare settings needing to maintain sustainability. Childcare clubs have made a significant impact on families enabling them to enter

employment, extend working hours, train to improve job and promotion prospects and even give them peace of mind to focus whilst in work.

- For some families working atypical hours require childcare, however there is not the flexibility for such families. Suggestions could include providing a subsidy for settings to remain open to cater for a small demand of service as well as continued Out of School Childcare Grant could be used for sustaining current childcare rather than developing new childcare.
- Participants felt the need for continued Childcare Business Development Officers to continue supporting clubs as well as ensuring support was given in registering new providers.
- Participants highlighted the need to provide funding to offer playwork training for those who work in unregistered settings.
- Participants noted that unless childcare settings are registered with CSSIW parents cannot access help with childcare fees.
- Working parents/carers rely heavily on childcare and the cost of childcare places a great strain on families. Financial support is available for those linked to Flying Start/Communities First areas however, those families who are not within remit struggle.
- An increasing amount of families rely on grandparents to provide unregulated childcare and the need to support them in terms of play opportunities.
- Families relied on the all-day open access playschemes as a form of childcare over the summer period, which had to be altered due to changes in regulations, meaning many parents/carers experienced great difficulty identifying alternative and affordable childcare.

Improvements for Families Seeking Work

- All childcare settings need help to gain CSSIW registration to allow working parents to access help with childcare costs. There are barriers for providers becoming registered such as the need for ongoing funding for Playwork qualifications, funding to enable venue improvements, support across all counties for committees to complete paperwork.
- Funding up front subsidies for childcare places for those entering the workplace would ease transition into employment, especially as childcare costs remain a significant barrier, especially for low income families/lone parent/carers.
- Offering free taster sessions for non-working families, alongside other support which would help lift some of the barriers back into employment, as well as linking this support with Flying Start. Currently Flying Start parents enjoy free pre-school childcare but there isn't continuity of childcare as children start school. As children start school, childcare is more difficult to establish and maintain in more deprived areas and the human funding and resources needed are greater.
- Providing greater flexibility for the number of hours that childcare can be accessed will help parents. Specifically the PaCE project was cited as being able to pay for childcare whilst parents are in training or seeking work, as well as parents also needing financial support for childcare whilst they are attending training/interviews and during the first weeks of employment.
- Partners in the Play Sufficiency Action Planning Group seek to identify childcare facilities when providing training.

Further Comments

- There was no mention in the CSA of a particular question regarding willingness or ability to pay, if this was introduced it would give a far stronger indication of where there is a need for childcare for working or training parents.
- The Out of School Childcare Grant use should be limited to support Out of School Childcare to ensure continued sustainability of Out of School Childcare provision. This is especially so where county funding for the Out of School Childcare support (including Childcare Business Development Officers) has been withdrawn, there are noticeable

reductions in the amount of Out of School Childcare available. The Out of School Childcare grant enables providers to be developed, remain sustainable, provide Assisted Places and Extra Hands and all come with the support of an experienced Childcare Business Development Officer with the backing of organisational resources piloted and developed over many years in the sector.

- Development and sustainability of settings creates and safeguards local jobs as well as improving the skills of play workers. There should be provision of funding for Playwork training for those who do not meet the criteria for the Progress for Success or Welsh Government work based learning.
- Apprenticeships remained key to the success of the childcare sector as well as helping people to aspire to higher goals, including raising their family out of poverty which blights the lives of low income families.
- Supporting new or increasing provision could be through a more intelligent use of the planning system. At present schools benefit from a contribution from the developers to meet demands created by a new development. Similarly, a new employment opportunity could potentially be required to support additional out of school childcare as part of its development approval.
- Childcare providers need to be inclusive and provide for all, including for families whose first language is not English whilst at the same time promoting the value of quality childcare and supporting language difficulties.

14.7 Consultation with Childcare Providers

This report presents the findings of the consultation with Childcare Providers distributed to all childcare providers in Torfaen County Borough.

Methodology

A Childcare Provider questionnaire (Annex 23) was designed by the Childcare Team to better understand provider's views of the local childcare market currently, the improvements that they would like to see, their plans for the future and the support that they might require. The questionnaire was sent to a total of 140 childcare providers within Torfaen (please note that several childcare providers deliver multiple childcare provisions in Torfaen, and for the purposes of this report they were only sent one copy).

63 childcare providers responded to the survey of childcare provider's questionnaire, a decrease compared to 97 who responded in the last full assessment in 2014. 50%. Responses were received from:

15	Childminder	14	Day Nursery
18	Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin	19	Nursery Wraparound
1	Crèche	8	Before School Club
12	Breakfast Club	18	After School Club
10	Holiday Club		

The 63 responses are representative of 140 childcare settings as some respondents operate more than one childcare provision. There was a significant decrease in responses from childminders (38%*), playgroup/cylchoedd meithrin (50%*), day nursery (50% *) and before school club (600%*). There was a decrease in responses from breakfast club (38%*), holiday club (25%*) and after school club (25%*). This is also the first CSA report to include responses received from closed access playscheme provision.

Figure 92 shows the distribution of respondents by provider type. Please note that some respondents will operate more than one type of childcare provision and so multiple types may be indicated by one childcare setting. It was noted that most day

nurseries and playgroups responded that they operate more than one type of provision however all responses from childminders did not indicate the same even though most childminders in Torfaen offer multiple provisions.

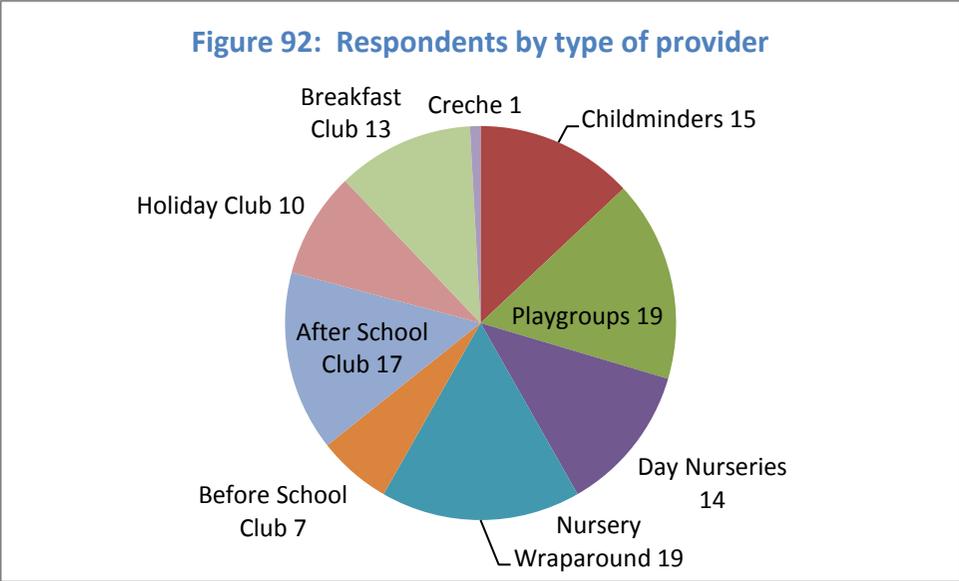
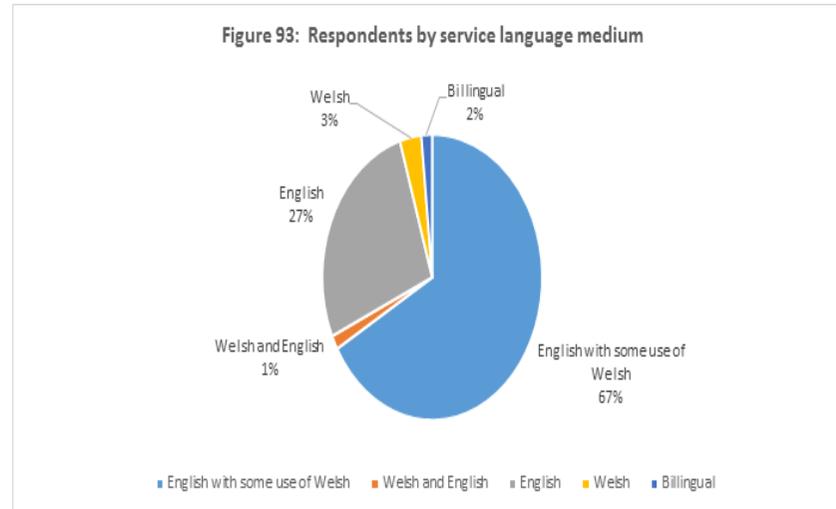


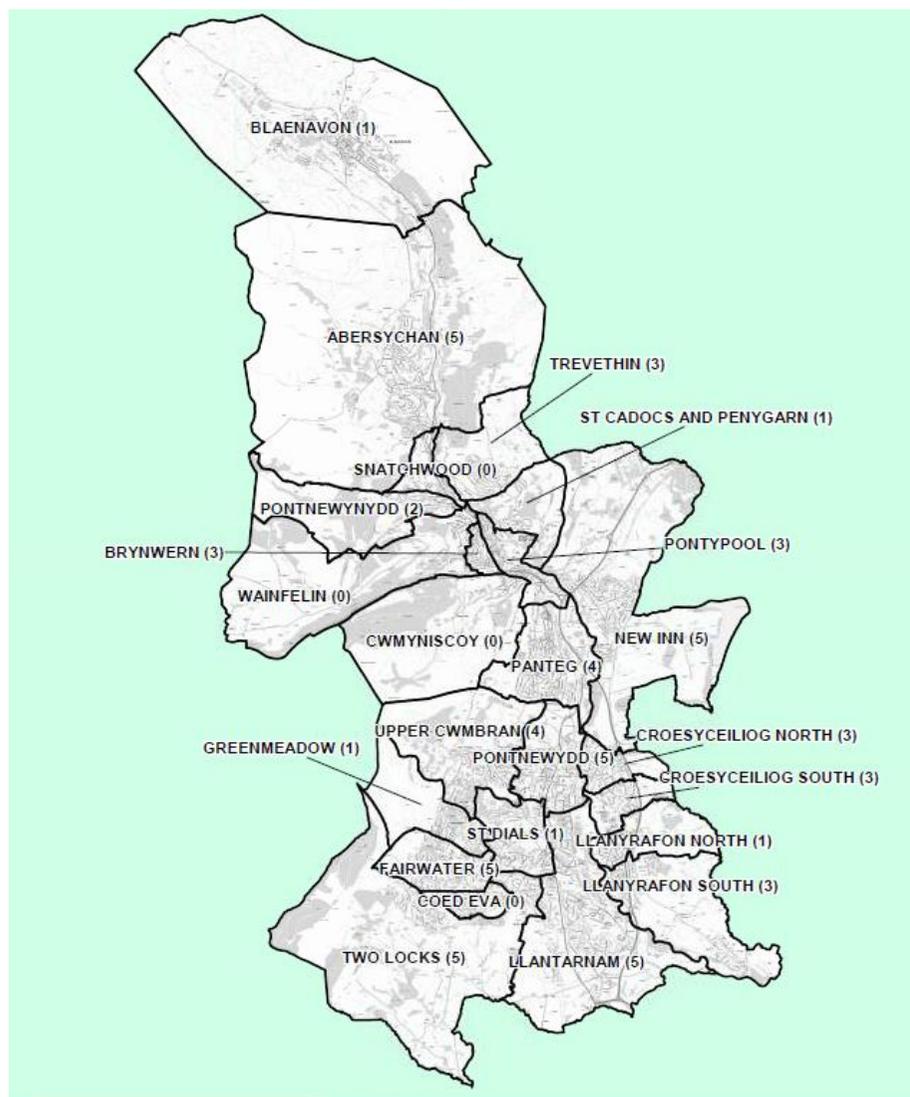
Figure 93 shows that 100% of respondent childcare settings indicated the language medium that their setting provides childcare in. Of those settings, two providers (3%) described their setting as Welsh Medium, one as English and Welsh medium (1%) and one as bilingual (2%). The majority of respondents described their service as predominantly English medium settings with some use of Welsh (67%) or as English medium (27%). Comparisons to the 2014 CSA have identified a 30% increase in providers describing themselves as ‘English medium setting with some use of Welsh’ and a 27% decrease in settings describing themselves as ‘English medium’. Of the respondent childcare providers indicating they were Bilingual or Welsh and English medium both decreased by 0.5%. Welsh medium settings decreased by 1%.



60% (2% decrease*) of respondent childcare settings were from the private sector, 22% voluntary(14% increase*), 11% local authority (7% decrease*) and 5% didn't know. 2% of respondents did not indicate a sector.

Figure 94 shows the distribution of respondents in terms of Torfaen Council Wards, where a respondent has supplied postcode details of the childcare setting. No respondents indicated a postcode within the Wainfelin, Cwmynyscoy, Snatchwood and Coed Eva wards. One childcare respondent left this section blank.

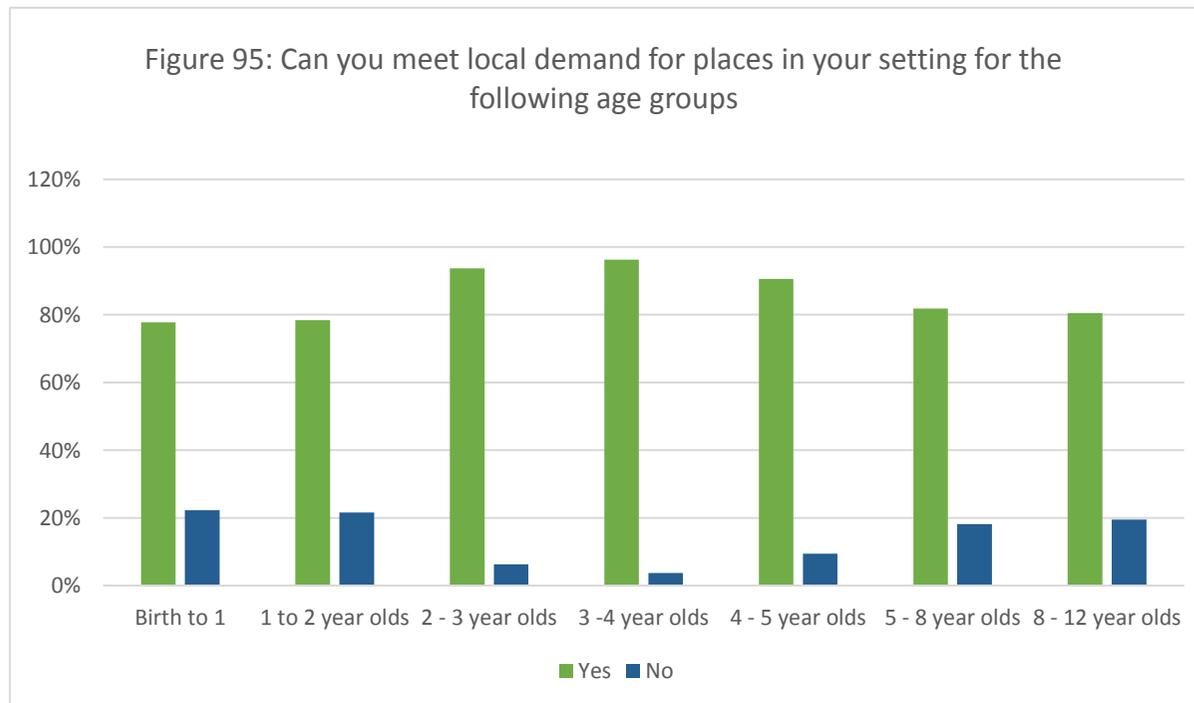
Figure 94 showing respondents by Torfaen Council Ward



Torfaen Council Ward (Number of Respondents) 2017	
Blaenavon	(1)
Abersychan	(5)
Pontnewynydd	(2)
Snatchwood	(0)
Trevethin	(3)
Wainfelin	(0)
Brynwern	(3)
Pontypool	(3)
St Cadocs/Penygarn	(1)
New Inn	(5)
Cwmynyscoy	(0)
Panteg	(4)
Upper Cwmbrian	(4)
Pontnewydd	(5)
Croesyceiliog North	(3)
Greenmeadow	(1)
St Dials	(1)
Fairwater	(5)
Coed Eva	(0)
Two Locks & Henllys	(5)
Llantarnam	(5)
Croesyceiliog South	(3)
Llanyrafon North	(1)
Llanyrafon South	(3)

Figure 95 shows the childcare providers ability to meet local demand for childcare places by specific ages. This is a new data collection and therefore have no comparison from previous data.

From the data below the majority of childcare providers can meet local demand for specific age groups, in particular the 2 – 3, 3 – 4 and the 4 – 5 year olds, ranging from 91% to 96%. There is a slight decrease in meeting local demand for the 5 – 8 and 8 – 12 year old, with an average of 81%. The least age groups childcare providers are able to meet local demand are in the Birth – 1 and 1 – 2 year olds age ranges with an average of 78%. This does not take into account those who left the question blank, which amounted to just under a third of the childcare providers.



Questionnaire results

Views on the local childcare market

Overall views on the local childcare market

Figure 96 shows the average rating given by all respondent childcare providers towards different aspects of the childcare market in Torfaen. Each aspect was rated on the following scale: very poor (1), fairly poor (2), satisfactory (3), fairly good (4) and very good (5).

Childcare provider respondents assigned the highest rating overall to 'Quality of provision', scoring 4 out of a possible 5.0, rating 'fairly good' which has decreased by 0.2 since 2014 CSA data. The average rating for 'Range or choice of Provision' was 3.8 out of a possible 5 which scored as fairly good, which has decreased by 0.2 since 2014 CSA.

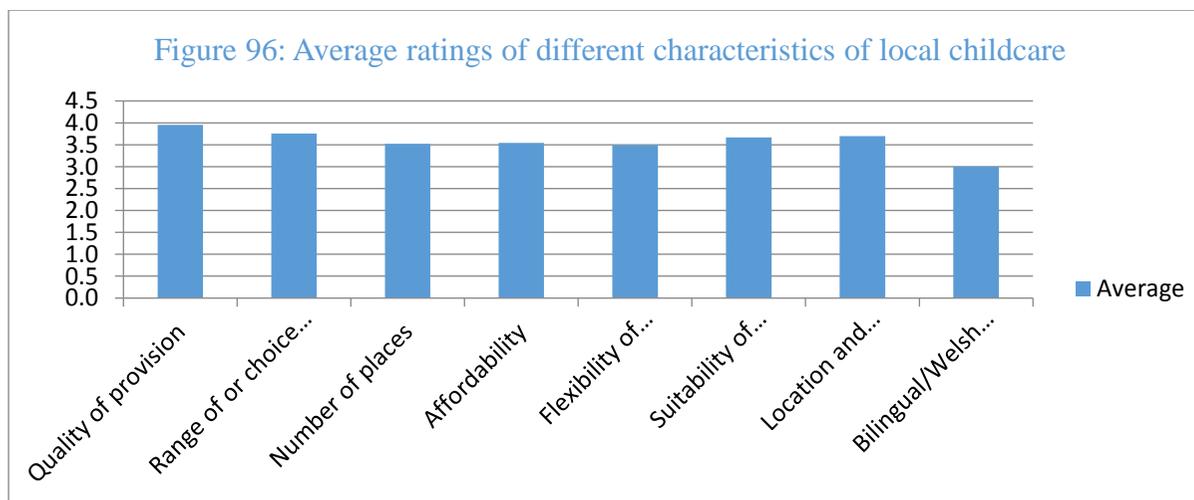
'Location and accessibility' and 'Suitability' was rated with an overall average score of 3.7, between satisfactory and fairly good, which has fallen by 0.4 from 2014 CSA.

Childcare provider respondents rated 'Number of Places', 'Affordability' and 'Flexibility of Provision' with the same overall average score of 3.5 out of a possible 5, between satisfactory and fairly good, decreasing by 0.4, from 2014 CSA.

The lowest overall average score was for 'Bilingual/ Welsh provision', which achieved an average score of 3 and has seen only seen an increase of 0.1 from 2014 CSA, although the majority of respondents (63%) to this specific question (40) indicated 'Bilingual/Welsh' provision to be between 'satisfactory' and 'fairly good' and 6% rating it as 'very good'.

88.8% of respondents completed this section of the form.

88.8% of respondents completed this section of the form.



Views on the local childcare market by locality

Figure 97 shows the differences in the average ratings summarised in 2.1 (Figure 5) broken down to electoral ward level in Torfaen. Each aspect was rated on the following scale: very poor (1), fairly poor (2), satisfactory (3), fairly good (4) and very good (5). Characteristics rated on average below satisfactory are colour coded in orange and those rated on average higher than fairly good are shaded green.

Figure 97: Average ratings of different characteristics of local childcare by locality

	Quality of Provision	Range of or choice of providers	Number of places	Affordability	Flexibility of provision and sessions	Suitability of opening times	Location and accessibility of childcare	Bilingual/Welsh provision
	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Orange - rated below satisfactory</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;">Green- rated above fairly good</div> </div>							
Abersychan	4.7	4.2	4.5	3.7	4	4.2	3.8	3.8
Blaenavon	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Brynwern	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4
Coed Eva	No respondents							
Croesyceiliog North	3.7	4	3	3	3.3	3.3	3.7	1.7
Croesyceiliog South	3.5	4	3	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.3
Cwmynyscoy	No responses							
Fairwater	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.6
Greenmeadow	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	2
Llantarnam	3.9	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.7	3.2	2.9
Llanyrafon North	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	0
Llanyrafon South	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.7	4	4.3	2.3
New Inn	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	3.3	4.3	4.5	3.3
Panteg	4.3	4	4	4	3	4.3	4.3	3.3
Pontnewydd	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.3

Pontnewynydd	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	0	21	2.6
Pontypool	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.7	4	34.9	4.4
Snatchwood	No respondents								0	0.0
St. Cadocs & Penygarn	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	25	3.1
St. Dials	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	23	2.9
Trevethin	5	5	3.7	4.5	4	4.5	4.7	4.2	35.6	4.5
Two Locks	4.5	4.5	3.2	3	3.6	4	4.5	3.1	30.4	3.8
Upper Cwmbran	4.5	4.5	3	3.5	3.5	4	3.8	2.7	29.5	3.7
Wainfelin	No respondents									

Figure 97 indicates that:

- There is 1 new respondent ward since 2014: Pontnewynydd
- 'Quality of provision', 'Flexibility of provision and sessions', 'Suitability of opening times' and 'Location and accessibility' all achieved an average rating between 'satisfactory' and 'very good'
- 'Range of or choice of providers' achieved an average rating between 'satisfactory' and 'very good' in all but one respondent ward: Pontnewynydd
- 'Affordability' achieved an average rating between 'satisfactory' and 'fairly good' in all but one respondent ward: Llanyravon
- 'Number of Places' achieved an average rating between satisfactory and fairly good in all but two respondent wards: Llanyravon and St Dials
- 55% of respondent ward localities rated all the characteristics on average between 'satisfactory' and 'very good'
- 'Quality of provision' was given the highest overall average respondent rating of 'fairly good'.

- 'Number of places', 'Affordability', 'Flexibility of provision', 'Suitability of provision' and 'Location and accessibility' were both assigned an overall average respondent rating of 'satisfactory'.
- Respondents assigned the lowest average ratings to 'Bilingual/Welsh provision' in 30% of localities, compared to 50% of localities in 2014 CSA data. Croesyeliog assigned the lowest average rating of 1.7 (increase of .2*) between 'very poor' and 'fairly poor'. Trevechin assigned the highest average rating of 4.2 or 'fairly good'. Although Pontnewynydd and Llanyravon did not give a score.
- 'Welsh/Bilingual' was given the lowest average rating by childcare provider respondents with an overall average rating of 'fairly poor'
- Pontnewynydd gave the lowest score for 'Range of provision', with an rating of 'fairly poor'.
- Llanyravon and St Dials gave the lowest score for 'Number of places' with a rating of 'fairly poor'.
- Llanyravon had the lowest overall average score for all characteristics at 2.4 of 'fairly poor'. In comparison to 2014, Greenmeadow respondent childcare provision gave the lowest assigned average ratings across all aspects at 2.5 of 'fairly poor'.
- Overall, 20% (4) of respondent wards localities, Abersychan, Brynwern, Llanyravon South, New Inn, Pontypool and Trevechin assigned the highest average ratings across all characteristics (between 4 'fairly good' and 5 'very good' overall). Whereas according to 2014 CSA data, 41% (9) of respondent ward assigned the highest average ratings across all characteristics.
- 80% (13) of respondent ward localities assigned average ratings across all aspects as between 3 and 4.7 or 'satisfactory' and 'fairly good'.

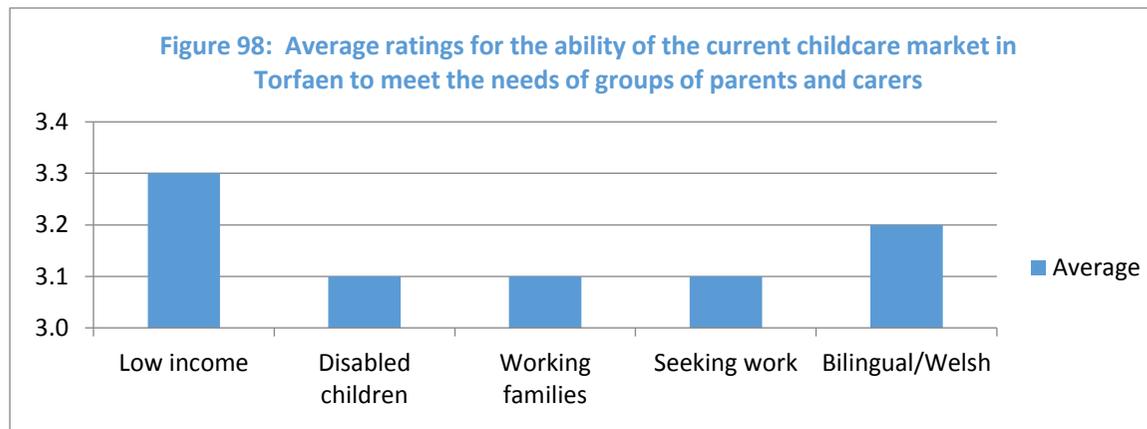
Views on meeting the childcare needs of specific groups

Overall average ratings of current childcare market

Figure 98 shows the average ratings assigned by childcare providers in terms of how well the local childcare market is able to meet the needs of five specific groups of parents/carers:

- Low income families;
- Those who require provision for disabled child(ren);
- Working families;
- Families seeking work;
- Those who require Bilingual/Welsh medium childcare.

Provision for each group was rated on the following scale: very poor (1), fairly poor (2), satisfactory (3), fairly good (4) and very good (5).



Bilingual/Welsh provision saw the greatest increase from 2.8 in 2014, 'fairly poor' to 3.2 in 2017, 'satisfactory'. Provision for those who could meet the needs of low income groups was rated highest at an average of 3.3 (a decrease of 0.2 from 2014 CSA). Provision for those who could meet the needs of disabled children, bilingual provision, working families and those seeking work all rated an average

of 3.1 Most of the groups achieved average ratings between ‘satisfactory’ and ‘fairly good’. The largest decrease in an average rating was for those families seeking work which decreased from a score of 3.7 in 2014 to a score of 3.1 in 2017.

Views on meeting the needs of specific groups by locality

Figure 99 shows the views of local childcare providers on meeting the needs of the specific groups of parents and carers in terms of the ward in which those providers operate their childcare services. The table highlights the areas scoring the highest and lowest averages by the specified groups. Provision for each group was rated on the following scale: very poor (1), fairly poor (2), satisfactory (3), fairly good (4) and very good (5).

Figure 99. Local Childcare providers meeting the needs of specific groups

Ward	Low income families	Families with disabled children	Working families	Families seeking work	Bilingual/Welsh
Abersychan	3.4	4	3.2	3.2	3.6
Blaenavon	2	1	2	2	3
Brynwern	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	4
Cod Eva	No respondents				
Croesyceiliog	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4
Cymynyscoy	No respondents				
Fairwater	4	3.3	3.2	3.2	2.6
Greenmeadow	3	2	3	3	2
Llantarnam	2.4	2	2.6	3	3.3
Llanyrafon	2.8	3.5	3	3	2.7
New Inn	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.2
Panteg	3.7	2.3	3.7	3.7	3.3

Pontnewydd	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.4
Pontnewynydd	3	3	3	3	3
Pontypool	3.3	3.5	3.7	4	3.3
Snatchwood	No respondents				
St. Cadocs & Penygarn	4	0	4	4	4
St. Dials	2	3	2	2	3
Trevethin	4.7	4.3	4	4	3.7
Two Locks	2.8	3	3.8	3.8	3.3
Upper Cwmbran	3.8	3	3	3	2.8
Wainfelin	No respondents				

- Trevethin, Brynwern, Pontypool were among the localities with the highest ratings overall. Brynwern and Pontnewydd both had an increased average score rating from 2014.
- Provision for families seeking work was assigned the highest average ratings, with the Trevethin and St Cadoc's and Penygarn ward, with an average rating score of 4.0 or 'Fairly Good'.
- Provision for those who could meet the needs of low income groups, 66% scored an average rating between satisfactory and very good, with 33% of the groups scored a rating of 'fairly poor'.
- Provision for working families was assigned the highest average ratings in the wards of Trevethin and St Cadoc's and Penygarn with a score of 4.0 or 'Fairly Good'. 22% of settings were rated as being 'fairly poor', whilst 78% fell into the 'fairly good' category. The localities rating lowest for the ability of the local childcare market to meet the needs of this specific group were Blaenavon, Croesyceiliog, Llantarnam and St Dials with an average of 2 or 'Fairly Poor' .

- Provision for families with disabled children was rated highest by providers in Trevethin, 4.3. The localities rating lowest for this group included the wards of Blaenavon, Greenmeadow, Panteg, Croesyceiliog North and Llantarnam.
- Provision for working families was rated satisfactory or above by all but four ward localities, and has seen an increase of two from 2014 CSA and was rated highest by respondents located in St Cadocs & Penygarn and Trevethin.
- Childcare provision for families seeking work was rated below satisfactory in three ward localities, in comparison to 2014 where there were four wards. The remaining respondents achieved an average rating of satisfactory or above, with Brynwern, New Inn, Pontypool, St. Cadocs & Penygarn, Panteg, Pontnewydd, Trevethin and Two Locks and Henllys among the localities with the highest rating.
- Bilingual or Welsh Medium childcare provision was rated the highest by providers in Abersychan, Brynwern, St Cadocs and Penygarn, Trevethin, and Pontypool with average scores between 3.6 and 4 or 'Satisfactory' and 'Good'. Providers in 5 wards (6 ward decrease*), including Upper Cwmbran, Croesyceiliog, Greenmeadow, Fairwater and Llanyravon wards rated the ability of the local childcare market to meet the needs of parents/carers requiring Bilingual or Welsh medium childcare as below 'satisfactory', or below 3 on average.

Views on meeting the needs of specific groups by provider type

Figure 100 shows that the average ratings for the ability of the local childcare market to meet the needs of the specified groups of parents and carers are varied compared to those seen overall (in figure 6) when split by respondent provider type. There appears to be less variation in the range of ratings when viewed across provider types than across ward localities.

- The ability of the local childcare market to meet the needs of the working families was rated highest by day nursery and holiday club provision, with a rating of 4 or 'fairly good'. Creche provision rated highest in 2014 with a rating of 5. Before school club provider types rated provision for working families less than 'satisfactory' on average in comparison with 2014 when they had a rating of 'satisfactory'.
- Provision for low income families remained similar to 2014 CSA data, however playgroup provision rating increased. Both creche and holiday assigned the lowest average rating, 1, 'very poor'.
- Regarding provision for families with disabled children playgroups, nursery wraparound, creche, after school clubs and holiday club provider types with a rating of 'satisfactory' or above. The lowest average rating for this specific provision was assigned by childminders, day nurseries and before school clubs, each rating between 2.6 and 2.8, or 'fairly poor'.
- Provision for working families was rated 'satisfactory or above ('satisfactory' or above in 2014*) by all but one childcare provider type, which was before school club, with day nursery and holiday club provider types giving the highest average rating at 4.
- Provision for families seeking work was given the highest average rating by childminders, day nurseries and nursery wraparound and the lowest average rating was given by creche provider types. ('very good' in 2014).
- Childminders, day nurseries, playgroups, nursery wrap around and creche provider types assigned Bilingual/Welsh childcare provision as being rated 'satisfactory or above, with after school club, before school club and holiday club assigning it below satisfactory. No provider types rated Bilingual/Welsh childcare provision above 'satisfactory in 2014. Day nurseries assigned the highest rating of 3.7, an increase of 0.4.

- In comparison with the results from 2014, the majority of average scores are lower, with only 3 of the 8 provider types rating their ability to meet the needs of each specific groups as 'satisfactory' or above. Responses from childminder, day nursery, creche, breakfast club and holiday club provider types indicate that they feel less able to meet any of the needs of specific groups of parents/carers. In comparison to 2014 when day nurseries, playgroups, nursery wraparound, creche and breakfast club.

Figure 100 Average ratings for the ability of the current childcare market in Torfaen to meet the needs of specific groups of parents and carers by provider type

Provider Type	Low income Families	Families with Disabled Children	Working Families	Families Seeking Work	Bilingual/Welsh
Childminder	3.5	2.6	3.7	3.6	3.2
Day Nursery	3.4	2.8	4	3.6	3.7
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin	3.6	3.5	3.6	3	3.3
Nursery wraparound	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.2
Creche	1	3	3	1	3
Before School Club	3.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.3
After School Club	2.5	3	3.5	3	2.2
Holiday Club	1	3	4	2	2

Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs of specific groups

Childcare providers were asked to make specific suggestions as to how childcare in Torfaen could be improved to better meet the needs of the groups of parents and carers specified. The following sections give further information on the suggestions made by respondents.

Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs of low income families

Providers made improvement suggestions centred around more financial help to fund childcare places, changing sessional fees to hourly fees, Tax Credits and also through the expansion of the Flying Start childcare scheme for two year olds. One childcare provider suggested improvements around the provision of information for low income families on childcare and on paying for childcare.

Figure 101 shows the main themes in the improvement suggestions made by respondent childcare providers and the comments that they made.

Figure 101: Summary of improvement suggestions for low income families

Theme	Evidence
Free/ Subsidised childcare places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More childcare settings needed • Hourly rate rather than session fees, which would better suit families on a rota and changing hours • More financial support for parents starting work • Payment of WTC to be made directly to the childcare provider • To pay childcare directly • Lower prices, buy one, get one half price • More affordable options • Free childcare for all • More funding for those settings which are not ESTYN/Flying Start, to provide childcare and not lose them to other providers
Expansion of Flying Start incentive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer Flying Start sessions • Expansion of Flying Start into other areas • Spread the funding further and not just Flying Start • To offer families outside of Flying Start the same provision for their children
Tax Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of the tax credits straight to the childcare providers to help with family budget • WTC are in arrears, childcare providers like payment in advance

Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advertising of services available. Leaflet/named person who could explain the benefits available and how to apply • Support with finding a specific childcare establishment, possibly a meeting for parents to discuss what is available and where to find it.
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Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs of families with disabled children

Providers responding to the survey mainly suggested improvements for meeting the childcare needs of families with disabled children around the themes of funding of modifications to premises, accessibility and purchase of Equipment, as well as more training.

It was suggested that Assisted Places does not help, as there are not enough hours provided for working families. The overall response was that there needs to be more financial assistance for disabled children as well as buildings not suitable. Other improvement suggestions highlighted the need for more information and advice for families and childcare providers and also the need for staff training for childcare settings.

Figure 102 shows the main themes in the improvement suggestions made by respondent childcare providers and the comments that they made.

Figure 102: Summary of improvement suggestions for families with disabled children

Theme	Evidence
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility, many buildings are not suitable • Accessibility – this is difficult to achieve but could do with financial assistance • Accessibility – many buildings are not suitable • We have a child with a disability starting with us shortly, the issues we have are access to the garden and the step at the front door. We would like to make our setting more accessible but at present finance will not allow us to do so • Specialist nursery required • More childcare settings needed • More assistance for accessing provision • Easy access to all buildings • More access • Help to make provision more accessible if needed
Funding for/ improvement of childcare equipment and adaptations to premises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance for adaptations to buildings/rooms • We do our best but it is difficult as a business to fund extra facilities or adaptations • Funding available to provide for their needs • Funding available to make improvements to settings • Financial assistance for adaptations/facilities/equipment
Grant funded/ subsidised childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More financial assistance for one to one support. Assisted Places does not help, , there are not enough hours provided for working parents • Financial support for one to one care
Information and advice for childcare providers and for parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that advertising shows places for children with disabilities • More information on the FIS website about the training our staff have received in caring for children with disabilities could help parents decide where to send their children
Staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better education and training so care settings can understand the needs of disabled children. • More training to be offered to CSSIW childcare providers
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have staff with the experience to work with disabled children. I think there should be a support team that can come to a nursery and provide information to help support the setting and suggest changes to be made and help with developmental learning for staff before the child starts making sure everything is in place

Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs of working families

The most common improvement suggestion made by providers regarding meeting the childcare needs of working families was expanding the length of childcare sessions and increasing the flexibility of childcare hours.

Providers suggested improvements with particular regard to flexibility in hours and the ability to offer different childcare hours from week to week. Respondent childcare providers also suggested that childcare needs to be more affordable for working families as well as. Making Tax Credits payments directly to the childcare providers was suggested by several respondents to avoid debt and fraudulent claims.

Figure 103: Summary of improvement suggestions for working families

Theme	Evidence
Greater flexibility of childcare in terms of sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility in hours required. Ability to offer different hours from week to week • Flexible rota – home workers to bridge the morning and afternoon gaps where it is not sustainable to keep the nursery open or if it is a weekend session that needs cover • (Time) opening and closing times, flexibility • More flexible childcare establishments • Bosses need to be more flexible • Longer hours • Consistent rather than fluctuating hours
More affordable childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be helped with the funding of childcare to encourage back to work • Funding to help work • More affordable provision • Low childcare costs • To help with the funding of childcare to encourage back to work • We are in the process of expanding our numbers of children to take in our out of school provision to meet the ever increasing need
Changes to Tax Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better service from Tax Credits! Tax credits to be paid straight to the nursery so that families can get their money better. This avoids families getting into debt where they spend all their tax credits before settling their childcare fees • Tax credits need to be paid directly to settings. Very often we get late or non-payments, even though parents are claiming tax credits. We also have been aware of fraudulent activity where parents continue to claim tax credits even though their children were no longer accessing childcare, a direct payment would solve this issue

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working tax credits continue to hinder working families working. Helpful if settings could have a contact in Government that allowed them to pass on required information, thus taking some of the stress from parents. We also struggle with non-payment from parents who claim tax credits again a direct link could help with this issue
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More advertising on services offered by JCP to enable parents to undertake interviews

Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs of families seeking work

Childcare providers mainly suggested improvements to childcare for families seeking work in terms of funding for childcare places during interviews as well as financial assistance towards initial cost of childcare. One respondent childcare provider saw support coming from PaCE. One respondent suggested that improvement to the information offered should be by JCP

Figure 104: Summary of improvement suggestions for families seeking work

Theme	Evidence
Funded/ subsidised childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with the initial cost of childcare More childcare support offered for parents to undertake interviews Sliding scale fees – more financial support We know how difficult it is for parents starting work so we offer a pay weekly scheme for the first month as this can be easier than a month in advance cost Projects such as PaCE need to be properly resourced in respect of childcare arrangements
Flexible childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schemes for parents undertaking interviews, but we offer two hour play sessions on a weekly basis but sometimes two hours is not enough More childcare support offered to undertake interviews

Improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs for bilingual/Welsh language provision

Childcare providers mainly suggested improvements to the training and support available for them to increase their use of Welsh in their settings. Some respondent childcare providers also highlighted more advertising for existing provision.

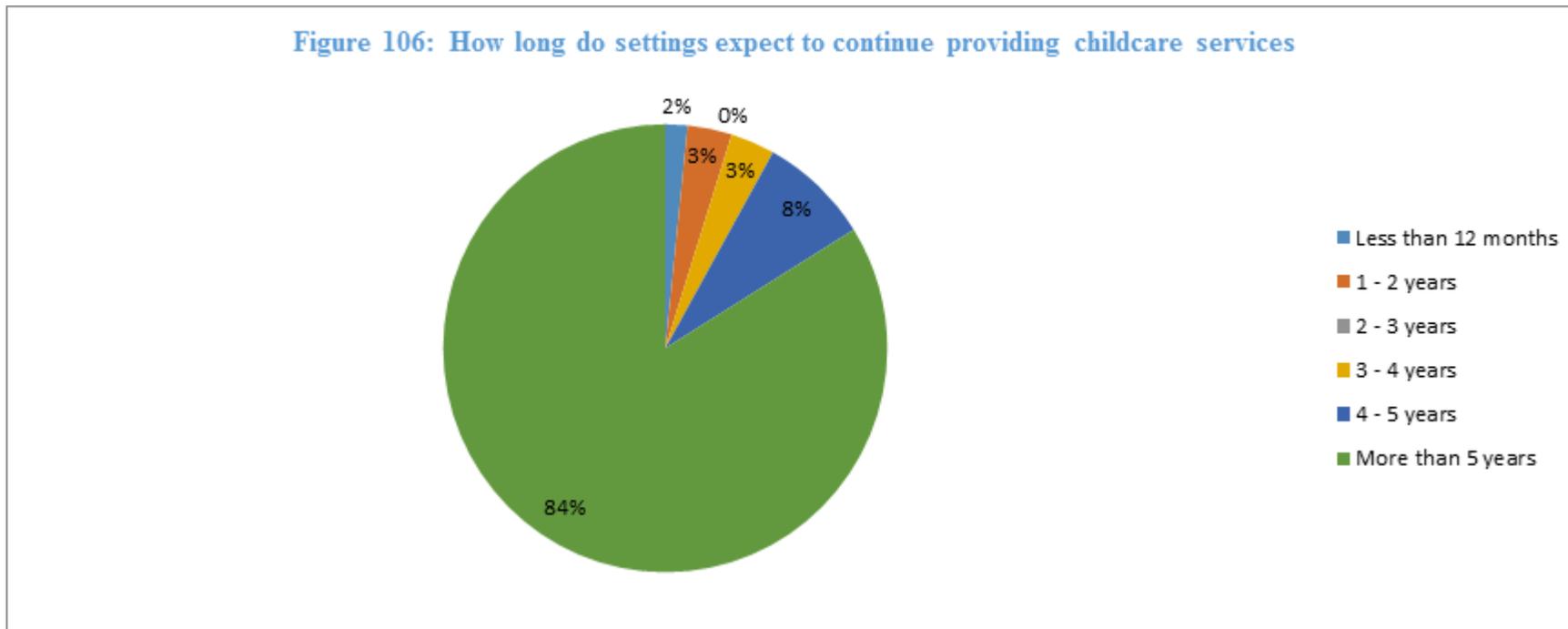
Figure 105: Summary of improvement suggestions for meeting the childcare needs for Bilingual/Welsh language provision

Theme	Evidence
Training & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure training is available and advertised to settings. More support to help settings facilitate bilingual literature etc. so they can achieve the Active Offer. Help to source good bilingual resources • We have just undertaken a Welsh speaking course. NDNA offered this course on site and paid every member of staff an amount on completion of the course and paid the nursery in rental costs in order to deliver the course. This was a god incentive for staff and actually made us some money rather than it costing us • Not really sure – training comes to mind first but often it is confidence to use the language • Development workers who go into sessions/settings to provide support • We have had a positive experience in this area where we held a six week training course and have sessions with a WPPA support officer to become a bilingual setting • Access to more training for staff • More bilingual /Welsh training • We would love to increase the amount of Welsh spoken in our setting, but it is very difficult to fund the course as well as as funding an additional member of staff to cover the training absence
Welsh medium childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More childcare settings needed • More provision
Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advertising for existing provision
Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effective translation services for service providers to help with written information

Future plans

Continuing to provide childcare

Figure 106 shows that the majority of respondents (84%) plan to continue providing childcare for more than five years. 8% indicated that they planned to continue for 4 – 5 years, 3% indicated 3 – 4 years and 0% selected 2 – 3 years. 3% of respondents expected to continue for between 1 and 2 years and 2% expected to provide childcare for less than 12 months.



Anticipated changes to childcare provision

Childcare providers were asked whether they have planned to change certain aspects of their services over the next 18 months. Figure 107 shows the overall level of change anticipated by respondent providers.

5% indicated that plans are in place to expand the number of places. 38% had no plans but were interested in expansion. 46% were not interested and 11% left this question blank.

50% indicated that they had no plans and not interested in increasing fees, 30% no plans but were interested.

Welsh Government proposals of the 30 hour of childcare

This is new data gathered for the purposes of the 2017 CSA and therefore there is no previous data to make any comparisons. 62% of respondents said they would consider the childcare offer, whereas 22% said no. However 14% left the question blank.

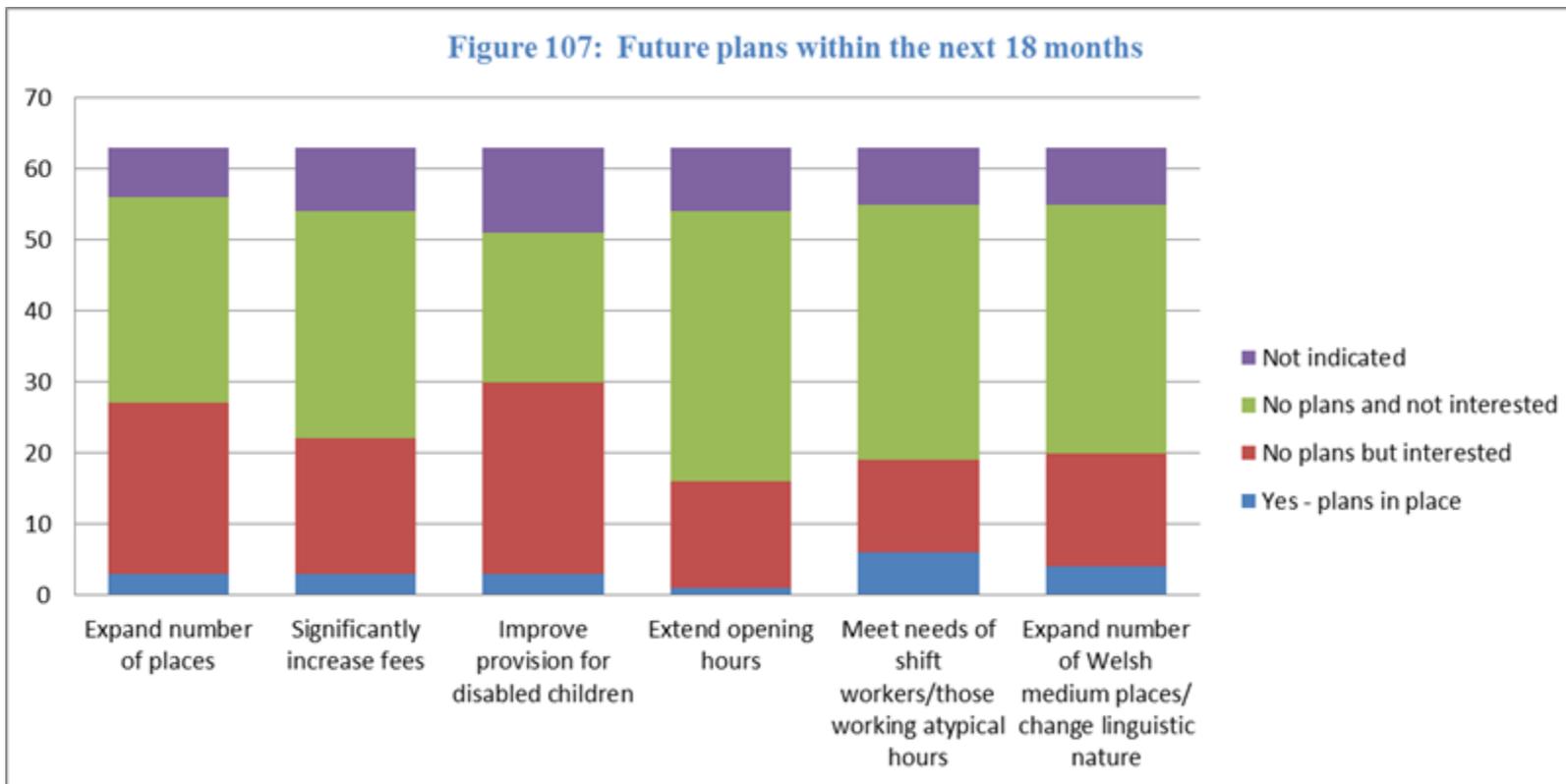
In addition to finding out who were interested in the 30 hours of childcare offer childcare providers were asked if they have the capacity to accommodate the 30 hours of childcare. 49% said they would, whereas 30% said they did not, 19% left the question blank.

Expansion of childcare places

4% (6% decrease*) indicated that plans are in place to expand the number of places. 5% (3% increase*) have plans in place to improve provision for disabled children. 9% (2% increase*) have plans in place to better meet the needs of shift workers or those who work atypical hours. 7% (5% decrease*) planned to significantly increase fees.

Respondents were more likely to be interested in improving their provision for disabled children (43% no plans but interested, a decrease of 8%*). Respondents were least likely to be interested in extending their opening hours (60% no plans and not interested, a decrease of 12%*), expanding the number of Welsh medium places/changing the linguistic nature of their provision (56% no plans and not interested) and meeting the needs of shift workers/those working atypical hours (57% no plans and not interested).

Childcare providers were least willing to indicate whether they planned to improve provision for disabled children (17% not indicated).



Anticipated changes to provision by provider type

Figure 108 shows that more playgroups, nursery wrap around and before school club/breakfast clubs indicated that they have plans in place to expand the number of places that they offer in comparison to playgroup/cylchoedd meithrin in 2014.

More childminders have plans in place to better meet the needs of shift workers or those who work outside of typical office hours. More childminders, day nurseries and before school club/breakfast clubs have plans in place to improve provision for disabled children. In comparison to childminders in 2014.

More childminders and day nurseries indicated that they have plans in place to expand the needs of Welsh language provision.

More nursery wrap around provision have plans in place to to increase fees.

The number of providers when broken down into provider types is a larger number than the number of overall respondents, as some respondent settings will offer more than one provider type and may have selected all of those that they offer. For example, a setting that offers before school club may also provide an after school club service and will have ticked both on the survey.

Figure 108: Number of providers with plans in place by provider type

Provider Type	Plans to expand places	Plans to increase fees	Improve provision for Disabled Children	Extend opening hours	Better meet the needs of shift workers	Expand the number of Welsh medium places
Childminder	0	0	1 Brynwern	1 Llantarnam	1 Croesyceiliog, 1 Brynwern, 1 Trevethin, 1 Llantarnum, 1 Pontnewydd	1 Brynwern
Day Nursery	0	1 Croesyceiliog	1 Croesyceiliog	0	1 New Inn	1 New Inn, 1 Upper Cwmbran, 1 Pontypool
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin	1 Upper Cwmbran	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery wraparound	1 Fairwater	1 Blaenavon, 1 Pontnewydd	1 Blaenavon, 1 Pontnewydd	0	0	0
Creche	0	0	0	0	0	0
Before School Club	1 Abersychan	0	0	0	0	0
After School Club	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holiday Club	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	3	4	1	6	4

In comparison to the 2014 CSA, Figure 108 indicates the most significant differences are the number of providers with plans in place to better meet the needs of shift workers, alongside improving provision for disabled children and expand the number of Welsh medium places. In comparison to 2014 which were the number of providers with plans in place to significantly increase fees; and to improve the provision for disabled children.

Anticipated changes to provision by locality

Figure 108 shows what changes to childcare provision are anticipated by locality, in terms of the location of childcare settings that have indicated that they have definite plans in place to make changes to their services. A low number of respondents indicated 'yes, plans in place' to any of the areas of anticipated change suggested by the survey. However, figure 108 also shows how these respondents are distributed in terms of ward location.

It shows that :

- Upper Cwmbran, Fairwater and Abersychan wards have the most providers who have plans in place to expand the number of places they offer;
- Respondents with plans in place to significantly increase fees are located in the wards of Croesyceiliog, Blaenavon and Pontnewydd;
- In terms of improving provision for disabled children, the respondent providers with plans in place are located in the wards of Brynwern, Croesyceiliog, Blaenavon and Pontnewydd;
- Providers in Llantarnam has plans in place to extend opening hours;
- Providers in Croesyceiliog, Brynwern, Trevethin, Llantarnum, Pontnewydd and New Inn wards have plans in place to better meet the needs of shift workers;

- Providers with plans to expand the number of Welsh medium places they offer or change the linguistic nature of the support they offer are located in Brynwern, New Inn, Upper Cwmbran and Pontypool;
- More providers in Upper Cwmbran, Croesyceiliog, Brynwern, BlaenavonI, New Inn, Llantarnam and Pontnewydd wards have plans in place to make changes to their service.

Further details provided about expanding the number of places

Providers who indicated that they had plans in place to expand the number of places that they offer were asked to provide further details of those plans. Comments were varied and were split between plans to expand numbers due to changes in premises and plans to expand services provided in a broader sense in the long term. Figure 109 shows how respondents commented regarding their plans.

Figure 109: Further details provided regarding plans to expand number of places

Theme	Evidence
Expansion due to change of premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to school
Broader plans to expand services and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the plans of the new trauma hospital now finally being given the go ahead, we feel there is a definite need for a Quality childcare provision based on the actual grounds of the hospital. We feel it could be set up to accommodate babies to pre-school, possibly with an overnight provision to cover the needs of the shift workers at the hospital. Also if space was available a drop off centre could also be in-cooperated to care for children of patients attending clinics, day surgery appointments or even visiting. This is something we as a group would be very interested in expanding into. We currently run and operate 2 after school clubs and 1 holiday club in Cwmbran area, we have many years of experience of providing quality non- maintained nursery provision in the Torfaen area under our umbrella group of Pontymoile Under Fives • Provide more childcare in my local area • To expand to wraparound at the PowerStation and to possibly become an education provider • We are looking into extending our provision, currently working with Torfaen Planning Department. If successful we may be in a position to offer earlier opening times and Saturdays • We are looking at the idea of including a demountable at our setting so that we can expand on the number of spaces available • Will increase registration for more children as moving to larger premises

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking at extending our provision, currently working with Torfaen Planning Department. If successful we may be in a position to offer earlier opening times and Saturdays • We are looking at the idea of including a demountable at our setting so that we can expand on the number of spaces available.
No details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wouldn't expand just need to fill places

Further details provided about significantly increasing fees

Figure 110 shows the further details given by respondents regarding significantly increasing fees. Many providers felt that they needed to increase fees to be sustainable and stay in line with minimum wage requirements.

Figure 110: Further details regarding plans to significantly increase fees

Theme	Evidence
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to increase fees in order to remain sustainable, however, as we have raised fees in the last 12 months we do not feel in a position to do so again at this moment in time. • Need to increase in April 2017 to cover National Living Wage • Our fees will increase in January • Fees to cover minimum wage • When minimum wage increases so does the price of childcare people do not like to pay too much for childcare as they have to work to get the funds • may increase slightly to cover additional costs and staff rises in pay yearly • Not increase significantly
No details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have held our prices for 2 years and will continue to do so. • We have recently increased fees • We have held our prices for 2 years and will continue to do so. • We have already raised fees this year. • Usual fee rise in October of each year • Not realistic to increase as parents won't pay if you're not competitive with nurseries etc. • If I do it would only be small change

Further details provided about improving provision for disabled children

Comments provided by respondents who gave further details on improving provision for disabled children highlighted issues around the themes of funding to improve provision for disabled children Further details are provided in figure 111:

Figure 111: Further details regarding plans to improve provision for disabled children

Theme	Evidence
Improvements to premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is ongoing; we continuously aim to improve accessibility to the setting.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have no plans but would be interested if financial help was available• We do have a child coming to us in the New Year that we need to plan for, we are currently looking into this. Funding is always an issue.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We already have facilities in place• I have access available throughout my home to care for disabled children• No plans as we are already able to offer disabled access to our after school club facility.• We are able to accommodate disabled children• We are already able to accommodate disabled children• Already set up for use for children in wheelchairs.• Our provision is already equipped to cater for disabled children

Further details provided about extending opening hours

Further details provided by respondents regarding plans to extend opening hours were around the themes of being responsive to parents needs on a flexible basis and plans to extend the opening hours in terms of the length of session or opening at weekends. Figure 112 shows how respondents commented on their plans:

Figure 112: Further details provided regarding plans to extend opening hours

Theme	Evidence
General flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We currently open for full day care during term time and operate holiday club during school holidays • Fairly flexible as a nanny so can work most hours day and night • But would look at managing home workers • Constantly trying to recruit parents onto adult education classes • Depends on demand • Already very flexible • I have flexible opening hours
Longer opening times and weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking at extending our provision, currently working with Torfaen Planning Department. If successful we may be in a position to offer earlier opening times and Saturdays

Further details provided about better meeting the needs of shift workers or those who work atypical hours

Providers commented further regarding plans to better meet the needs of shift workers or those who work atypical hours along the themes of already providing this service.

Barriers suggested highlighted the difficulty in planning services due to CSSIW regulations. Figure 113 shows how respondents commented:

Figure 113: Further details provided regarding plans to better meet the needs of shift workers and those who work atypical hours

Theme	Evidence
Already meeting the needs of shift workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very flexible with places, also considering Saturdays • Already offer flexible hours and adhoc
Barriers to meeting the needs of shift workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we can only offer sessions from 8.30 am • we can't operate more than a continuous 4 hours - set by CSSIW
Willing to better meet the needs of shift workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I already cater for parents on early mooring's 6am start but I do not cater after 6pm
No details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not able to do this but we are aware that it is an issue, especially for nurses who have no consistency to their rota • See above regarding home workers

Further details provided about expanding the number of Welsh Medium places or changing the linguistic nature of provision

Respondents commenting on expanding the number of Welsh Medium places included those settings who already provide Welsh Medium childcare, who stated that the provision was already in place. There were some respondents who have plans to improve this aspect of their provision with the introduction of basic Welsh and a respondent who was seeking training. Figure 114 shows how respondents commented on their plans, in line with these three themes:

Figure 114: Further details provided regarding plans to expand the number of Welsh Medium places/ change the linguistic nature of provision

Theme	Evidence
Already in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am already a settings giving Welsh medium childcare• We have a Welsh speaking advisor that is currently working with us in order to increase the amount of Welsh that our setting is using.
Plans to go on training course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are looking for training
Not able to offer Welsh medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is ongoing. We do not aim to become a Welsh medium setting however we always strive to increase the amount of Welsh used.
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have plans to introduce training in order to increase the amount of Welsh used in our setting• Would like to if finances will allow us to do so• we already offer 62 places

Expansion into different geographical areas

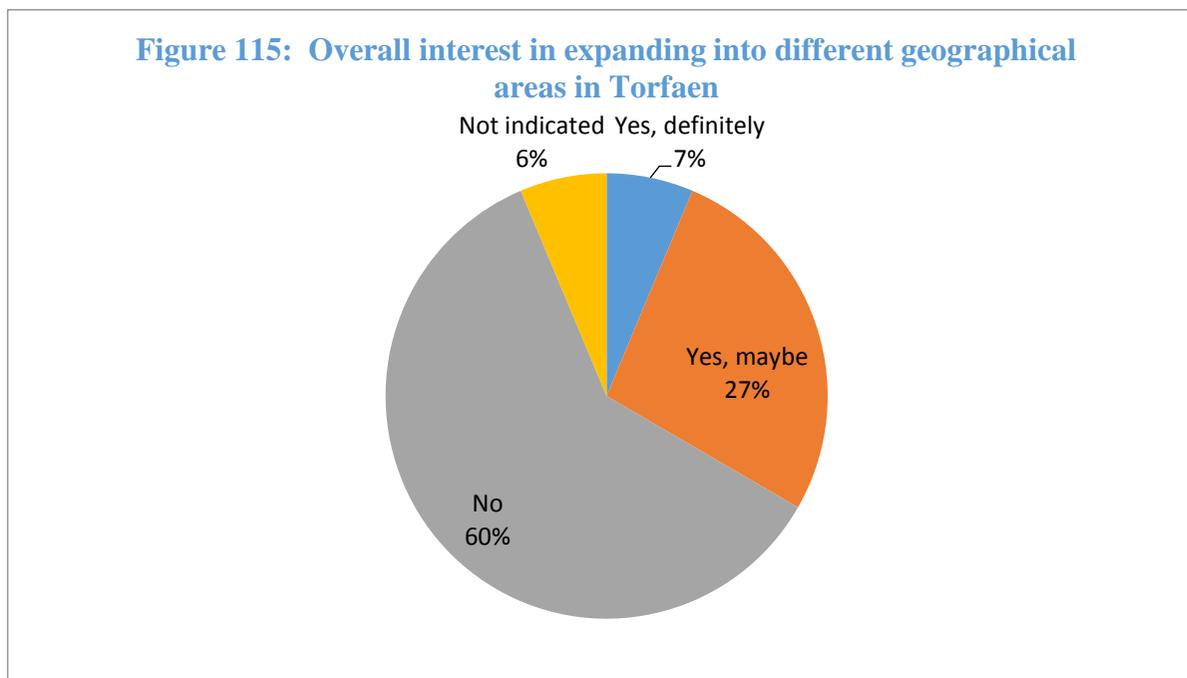
Overall interest in expanding into different geographical areas

Childcare providers were asked to indicate whether they are interested in expanding their service into a different geographical area within Torfaen. They were also asked to give details of their plans, if plans in place.

5% (an increase of 4%*) of respondents were 'definitely' interested and a further 29% (an increase of 17%*) were 'maybe' interested in expanding into a different area within Torfaen. The majority of respondents, 60% (a decrease of 24%*), were not interested in

expanding geographically. There was less interest overall, from respondent childcare providers, in expansion into different geographical areas, than in 2014.

Figure 115 shows the overall response of childcare providers to expanding into a different geographical area within Torfaen.



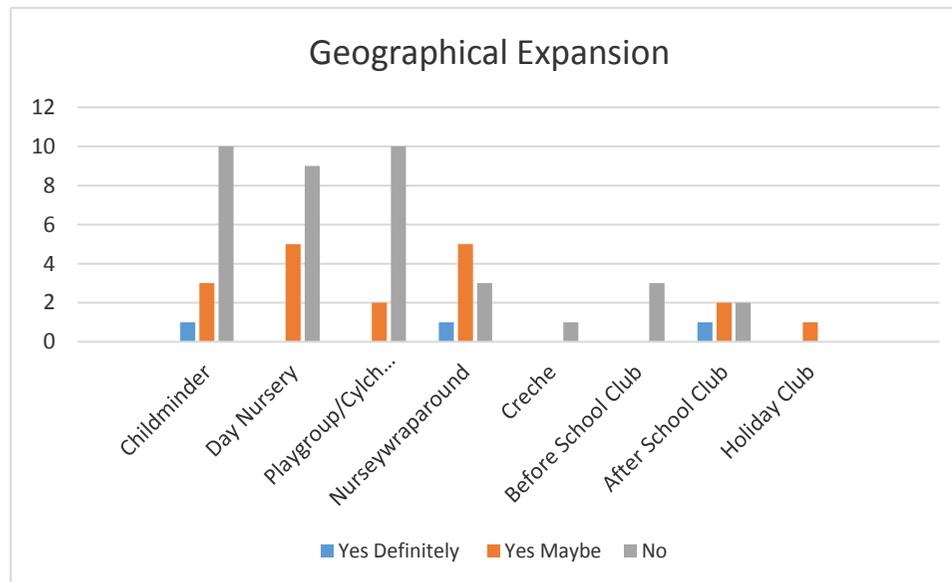
2 providers gave further details regarding their likeliness to expand their service into another geographical area of Torfaen. These included:

- “To use the Powerstation more.
- “I take children from any area”

Interest in expanding into different geographical areas by provider type

Figure 116 shows respondents interested in expanding into a different geographical area within Torfaen by their provider type. It shows that more day nurseries and nursery wrap around are 'maybe interested' in expanding their service geographically. Childminders, nursery wrap around and after school provision were more 'definitely interested' in expanding geographically. In comparison to 2014, more day nursery provider types indicated they are considering expansion.

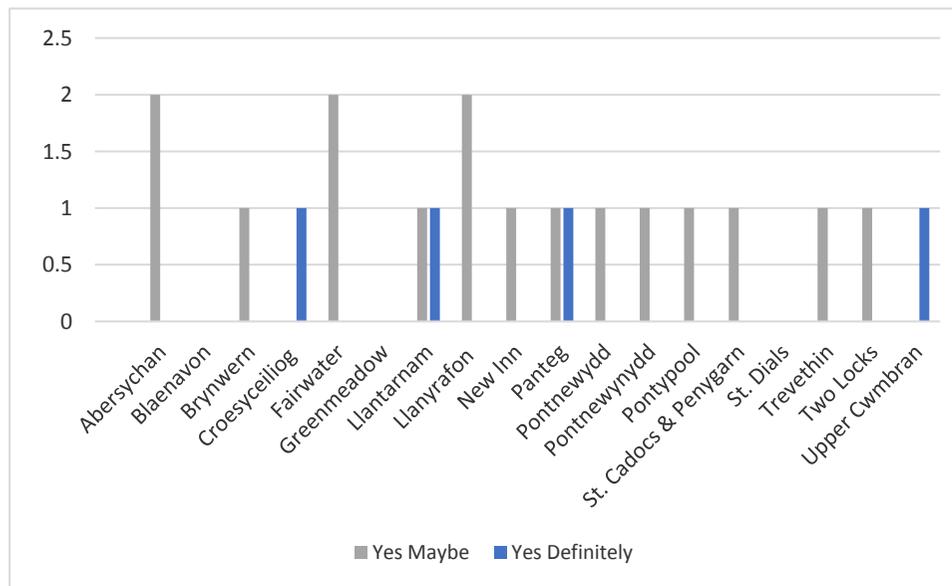
Figure 116: Interest in expanding into different geographical location by provider type



Interest in expanding into different geographical areas by locality

Figure 117 shows the respondents interested in expanding into a different geographical area by their current ward localities. It shows that providers that are 'definitely interested' in expanding their services geographically are located in the ward of Llantarnam, Panteg, Upper Cwmbran and Croesyceiliog in comparison to New Inn in 2014. It also shows that more providers that are 'maybe interested' are located in the wards of Abersychan, Brynwern, Llantarnam, New Inn, Panteg, Pontypool, St Cadocs & Penygarn, Trevethin, Fairwater, Two Locks, Llanyravon, Abersychan, Pontnewydd and Pontnewynydd. 6% of respondents 'definitely interested' in expanding their services geographically and 25% of respondents 'maybe interested' in expanding their services

Figure 117: Respondents interested in expanding into a different geographical area by current locality



Overall Support required

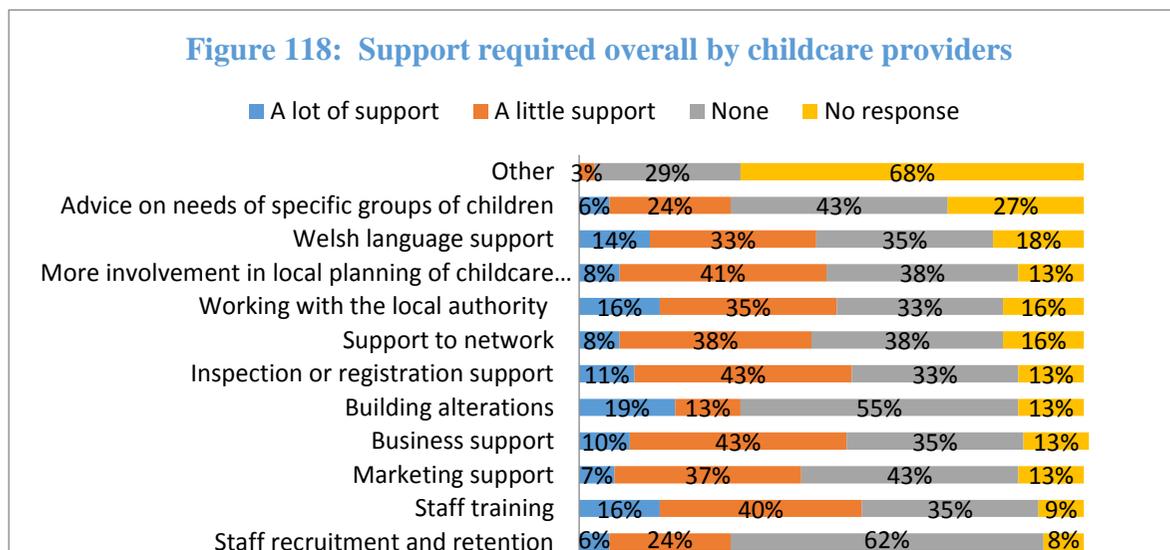
The childcare provider questionnaire asked providers to indicate what level of support they would require in specific areas of their childcare business in order to meet their plans. Figure 118 shows how providers responded.

As in 2014, providers were most likely to require a lot of support with staff training (16% 'a lot of support' required), a decrease of 1% from 2014, but also with inspection or registration support (11% 'a lot of support' required), a decrease of 1% from 2014 and building alterations (19% 'a lot of support') an increase of 9% from 2014, as well as working with the local authority (16% 'a lot of support') an increase of 14% from 2014. Closely followed by Welsh language support (14% 'a lot of support'), an increase of 7% from 2014.

The most noticeable increases with support required since 2014 have been identified as building alterations (an increase of 9%). The biggest decrease is in working with the local authority (6%).

Providers were most likely to require a little support with business support and Inspection and registration (43% 'a little support'), as well as more involvement with the local authority (41% 'a little support') and staff training, 40% 'a little support')

Providers were least likely to require support with staff recruitment/retention (66% 'none' required) and building alterations (55% said 'none' required).



- 1 childcare provider (1.6% of respondents) indicated that they required either 'a lot' or 'a little' support with an area of their childcare business other than those specified in the questionnaire. The further details given included:
 - Specific training - Key handler (Team Teach for younger children)
 - For business support to help owner/managers to keep abreast of the ever changing market. Employment law, health and safety, pensions, living wage increases, forward financial planning/cash flow forecasts, safeguarding, joint inspection working, self evaluation, changes to CSSIW requirements etc.
 - Working together as a team! (All childcare providers) Supply staff - very often supply staff are required but difficult to source. It would be useful if the LA could organise a list of suitably qualified staff that could help out at short notice.
 - I feel there should be more availability on training courses as a small business funding this elsewhere is a problem. Spaces are very limited and feel that many settings get priority
 - Support with our ESTYN inspection, leaflets on childhood illnesses.
 - Financial training
 - Training support has been great need this to continue
 - Our own building on school grounds
 - Yes, from other childminders
 - A building within the grounds of the hospital.
 - A building in the hospital grounds

Support required by provider type

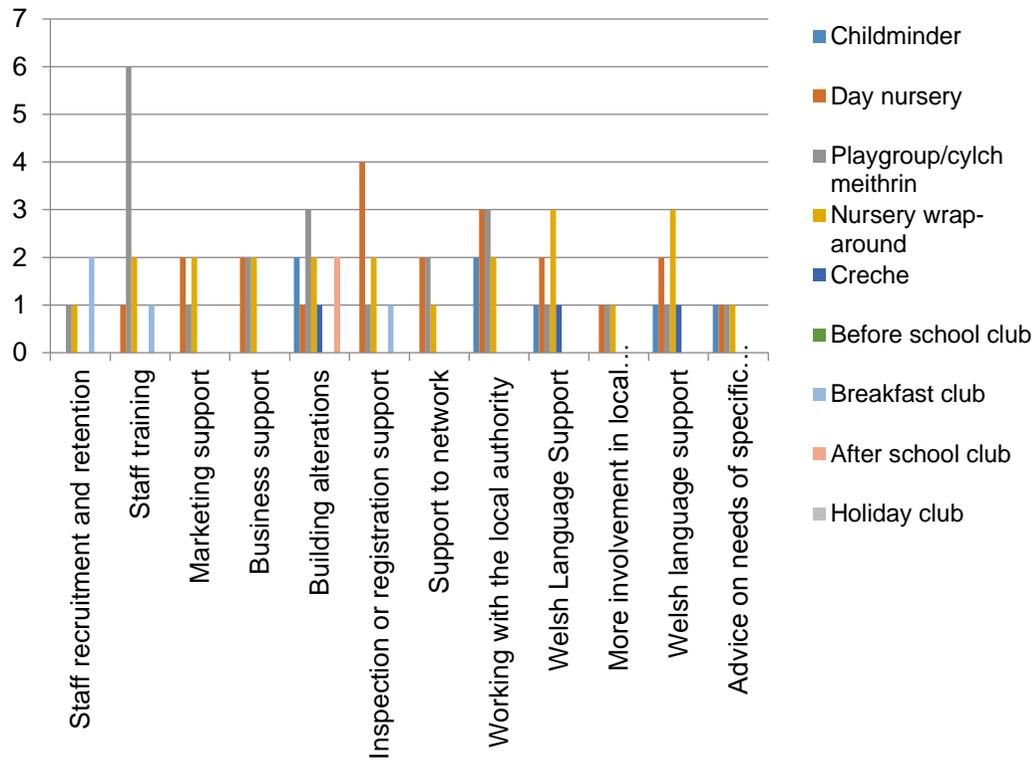
Figure 119 shows the number of respondents indicating that 'a lot of support' is required against each area for support and by provider type. It shows that:

- Playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin, nursery wraparound and breakfast clubs were most likely to require 'a lot of support' with staff recruitment and retention;
- Day nursery, playgroup/cylchoedd meithrin, nursery wraparound and breakfast club were most likely to require 'a lot of support' with staff training;
- Building alteration support was required by the widest range of provider types, closely followed by Welsh language support;
- Marketing support was requested by day nurseries, playgroup/cylchoedd meithrin, nursery wraparound and after school club provisions ;
- Business support was most likely to be required by playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin, day nursery and nursery wraparound providers;
- Childminders, playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin, day nursery, nursery wraparound, creche and after school clubs were the provider types most likely to require support with building alterations;
- Inspection or registration support was requested by playgroup/cylchoedd meithrin, day nursery, nursery wraparound and breakfast club provision;
- Playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin, day nurseries and nursery wraparound requested support to network;

- Childminder, day nursery, playgroup/cylch meithrin and nursery wraparound provision were most likely to require 'a lot' of support regarding working with the local authority.
- Childminders, playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin, day nursery, nursery wraparound and creche were most likely to require 'a lot of support' with using the Welsh language;
- Playgroup/cylch meithrin, day nursery, and nursery wraparound requested support with specific groups of children;
- Playgroups/cylchoedd meithrin and nursery wraparound and were the provider types requesting 'a lot of support' across the most areas for support, closely followed by day nursery provision.
- After school provision were least likely to request support.

The least amount of support any provider type requested was for more involvement in local planning of childcare provision, staff recruitment, marketing, business support and support to network

Figure 119: Providers requiring a lot of support by provider type



Support required by locality

Figure 120 shows the number of respondents indicating that 'a lot of support' is required against each area for support and by ward locality in Torfaen. It shows that:

- Providers in Llantarnam, Panteg, Pontnewydd and Upper Cwmbran wards were most likely to require 'a lot of support' with staff recruitment and retention;
- Support with staff training was requested by providers in the second most wards;
- Providers in Panteg, Pontnewydd and Upper Cwmbran requested marketing support;
- Business support was requested by providers in Panteg, Pontnewydd and Upper Cwmbran;
- Support with building alterations was requested by the most providers in Croesyceiliog, Llantarnam, Llanyravon, New Inn, Panteg, Pontnewydd, Pontypool, St Dials and Upper Cwmbran wards;
- Inspection and registration support was required by Abersychan, Croesyceiliog, Llanyravon, Panteg Pontnewydd, Pontypool and Upper Cwmbran wards;
- Providers in Croesyceiliog, Pontnewydd, Pontypool and Upper Cwmbran requested support to network;
- Providers in Croesyceiliog, Llantarnam, Panteg, Pontnewydd and Pontypool and Upper Cwmbran, were the wards needing support working with the Local Authority;
- Welsh language support was requested by providers in Blaenavon, Croesyceiliog, Fairwater, Llantarnam, New Inn, Panteg and St Dials wards;
- The only providers requesting support regarding more involvement in the local planning of childcare in the wards of Pontnewydd and Pontypool;

- Advice on needs of specific groups of children were requested by providers in Llantarnam, New Inn and Panteg;
- Providers in Panteg and Pontnewydd requested more support in all but 2 areas, whilst providers in Croesyceiliog, Pontypool and Upper Cwmbran wards were likely to need support in more than 50% of areas.

Figure 120: Providers requiring a lot of support by ward locality

Ward	Staff recruitment and retention	Staff training	Marketing support	Business support	Building alteration	Inspection/registration	Support to network	Working with LA	More involvement in local planning of childcare provision	Welsh language	Advice on needs of specific groups of children
Abersychan		1				1					
Blaenavon		1								1	
Brynwern											
Coed Eva	No respondents										
Croesyceiliog		2			2	1	1	1		2	
Cymynyscoy	No respondents										
Fairwater										1	
Greenmeadow											
Llantarnam	1				1			1		1	1
Llanyrafon					1	1					
New Inn					1					1	1
Panteg	1	1	2	2	2	1		2		1	1
Pontnewydd	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1		
Pontnewydd											
Pontypool					1	2	1	1	2		
Snatchwood	No respondents										
St. Cadocs & Penygarn											
St. Dials					1					1	
Trevethin		1									
Two Locks											
Upper Cwmbran	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	3			
Wainfelin	No respondents										

Summary

The following conclusions have been drawn from the evidence collected via the childcare provider questionnaire as presented above:

- Overall, the majority of childcare providers expressed a positive view of the childcare market locally, rating most aspects of the market specified between 'satisfactory' and 'very good' on average, with 'Quality of provision' rated highest on average. However, 'Bilingual/Welsh provision', rated lowest on average, with just under half of the 20 respondent wards considering it to be between 'very poor' and 'poor'.
- Abersychan, Brynwern, Llanyravon South, New Inn, Pontypool and Trevethin were the Torfaen electoral wards where respondent childcare providers consistently expressed the most positive view on average about the local childcare market.
- Pontnewynydd ward considered 'range of providers' to be 'poor' and Llanyravon ward 'number of places' and 'affordability' 'to be 'poor'; The Llanyravon, Pontnewynydd and St Dialswards gave consistently low ratings on average. All other respondent wards rated most aspects as 'satisfactory' or above.
- Childcare for specific groups of parents and carers was thought to be above satisfactory on average, with the exception of 'families with disabled children'. Childcare for families seeking work rated the highest overall.
- Respondent childcare providers most frequently suggested lowered prices or subsidised childcare places as an improvement to provision for low income families.
- Improvement suggestions made by providers regarding childcare for families with disabled children were centred on accessibility, financial assistance and to make improvements to settings, improved training for staff and for equipment purchases/modifications to childcare premises.

- Providers were most likely to suggest that childcare for working families could be improved through increased flexibility in childcare hours and extended session lengths. They also felt that support with the costs of childcare would be beneficial, as well as guidance on tax credits.
- Funding of childcare places during interviews and whilst seeking work, including financial assistance with retainer fees, were most frequently suggested by providers as improvements for parents to undertake and attend interviews.
- 83% of childcare providers expect to remain in business for over 5 years, suggesting that the Torfaen childcare market is relatively stable overall.
- In terms of the changes anticipated to childcare businesses overall, providers are most likely to expand the number of places they offer (5% 'plans in place' plus 38% 'no plans but interested', significantly increase fees (4% 'plans in place' plus 30% 'no plans but interested' and improve provision for disabled children (5% 'plans in place' plus 43% 'no plans but interested').
- Childcare providers require support with building alterations, but highlight a need to focus on supporting providers with staff training, providing business support, working with the local authority and offering advice and guidance on building alterations.

15 Gap Analysis & Areas for Improvement

Torfaen County Borough Council recognises the need for the analysis of the supply and demand of childcare, summarising the gaps in provision with reference to the following groups as identified in the revised guidance. These include;

- Childcare provision for children of parents who work atypical hours
- Welsh medium childcare provision
- Childcare provision for different language categories
- Any other

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will also outline childcare needs which are not being met in the Local Authority area, including those which relate to the:

- Types of childcare available
- Age of children for whom childcare is available
- Affordability of childcare
- Times at which childcare is available
- Location of childcare

This report presents the summary of areas for improvement, taking into account key strengths and weaknesses which are identified earlier in earlier sections..

This section takes into account analysis of the supply and demand of childcare within Torfaen County Borough Council, allowing us to identify any gaps in provision. Due to only 274 parental responses being received, the information can be considered as statistically insignificant, however valid responses are still examined for the purposes of this report, and Torfaen County Borough Council will acknowledge gaps which are deemed significant for further examination.

The data used for the gap analysis & areas for improvement has been mainly extracted from:

- Consultation with parents/carers,
- Analysis of supply based on SASS Part 1 data submission
- Consultation with Stakeholders

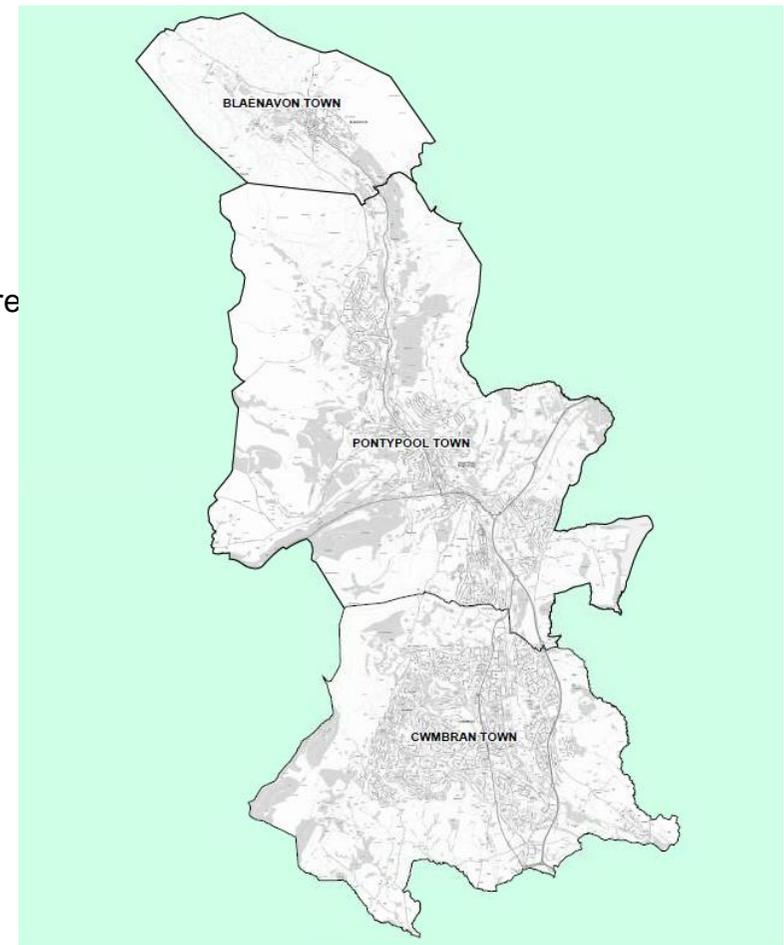
Reference to other consultations will be referred to where necessary.

As previously stated the analysis of the CSA has been based on the 3 main settlement areas for Torfaen, with the exception of the consultation with childcare providers (this was submitted by ward).

Figure 121 shows the geographically settlement areas of Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran.

Please note that some references to gaps in provisions may not necessarily be acknowledged in the context it is intended, therefore duplication has been omitted for the purposes of this summary.

Figure.121



TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH  BWRDEISTRIF SIROL TORFAEN		Drawing Title Torfaen town boundaries		
Drawn O.S/AW	Date 17/03/2017	Scale NTS	File Ref	Area:
<small> Reproduced from Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution/civil proceedings. LICENCE No. LA 100023426/2007 </small>				
<small> Aelwyddwyd o Fapan's Ordnance Survey gyda chaniadau Rheolwr Llyfrfa E. Mawrbydd (C) Hawlfraint y Crown. Yn nac aghybroddu heb awddorol yn tiri Ffawfrant y Crown a gall arwain at enghydion neu achosion nill. REF. Y.FEAWYR/03/L.A. 100023426/2007. </small>				
Alison Ward LLB Chief Executive				

15.1 Childcare provision

According to the supply data (provided by the SASS data), in Torfaen County Borough Council there are:

44 Active registered Childminders

33 Full Day Care providers completed the SASS data (this contains a number of providers who would be considered as Sessional Care locally)

3 Sessional Day Care providers

6 Out of School Providers

2 Crèche

Information held on the Family Information Service database (March 2017) reveals that in Torfaen there are:

53 registered Childminders

17 Day Nurseries

27 Registered playgroups (3 provide Flying Start Childcare exclusively, and 3 provide wraparound facilities within a full day nursery)

2 Registered Cylch Meithrin

13 Registered Before School Clubs

27 After School Clubs (20 of these are registered)

11 Registered Holiday clubs (9 are delivered at existing childcare providers)

2 Creche (1 is registered)

Please note that numerous Full Day Care providers identified within the SASS data would typically be referred to as Sessional Childcare within the Family Information Service. Therefore discrepancies amongst both sets of data are evident, and it is difficult to ascertain any comparable gaps.

No unregistered provisions responded to the SASS, however information held within Torfaen Family Information Service reveals that there are a total of 7 out of school clubs who operate 1 hour 59 mins or under. Attempts to collate this information were made, however responses were not received and therefore the unregistered childcare information (excluding open access provision) is not included in this analysis. Unregistered provisions will be addressed in the Action Plan.

Information submitted by the SASS data refers to a number of childcare providers as Full Day Care, however in reality a number of these settings are not providing Full Day Care to accommodate atypical hours and are considered to be providing Sessional Childcare. Therefore the information held within the Family Information Service would give a more accurate summary of full childcare available to working parents in Torfaen. SASS data would suggest that there are gaps within provision in Torfaen, however due to incomplete data submitted within the SASS this cannot be assumed to be true. A separate report on the analysis of childcare will be addressed within the Action Plan and submitted to Welsh Government in the Annual Review March 2018.

15.2 Childcare barriers - Summary of Consultation with Parent / Carers

Based on a total of 274 responses from the parent / carer survey it is revealed that 48% of parents are using childcare (based on 132 parent / carers), however the types of childcare used include;

1. Family and Friends
2. Full time day care within a nursery
3. After school clubs
4. Before school clubs

Services most frequently being used are;

1. Day nursery - with the majority of parents using full day care services
2. Out of school care - with the majority of parents using after school clubs facilities
3. Childminder - with the majority of parents using full day care services

Combined figures of all childcare types used suggest that parent / carers who responded to the survey predominately use out of school childcare, by using a selection of After School clubs (38), Before School / Breakfast Club (32) and Holiday childcare throughout the day (22). This may support data for the parent carer survey that reveals that children aged 5-7 years predominantly use childcare more than any other age group.

Main reasons for not using childcare

Data from the parent/carers survey examines reasons why parent / carers **do not** use childcare. Main reasons identified are due to;

1. Partner/family/friends looking after children (64)
2. Childcare is too expensive (57)
3. I am/my partner is a stay at home parent and I have no need for childcare (41)
4. My children are old enough to look after themselves (15)
5. There is no childcare available at the times that I need it (15)

Affordability is not the main reason for not using childcare, however it is the main improvement suggestion for parent / carers not currently using childcare.

Information abstracted from the parent/carer survey revealed that parents who **do not** currently use childcare would consider future childcare use based on the top following preferences;

1. Affordable childcare
2. Good Quality childcare
3. Childcare close to home
4. Childcare close to child's school and childcare after school / during holidays.

Interestingly, it is worth noting that despite this preference for future childcare use, those who currently use childcare reveal that their satisfaction with the quality of childcare supersedes the need for affordable childcare. Satisfaction of childcare was further identified in the consultation with children and young people. Children discussed areas within childcare that they particular enjoyed the most by issuing 'smiley' faces to specific areas. All children put a 'smiley face' on the staff within the childcare setting. Parental views on childcare for those currently using provision suggest that;

1. They are satisfied with the quality of childcare during term time (118)
2. Childcare is too expensive (113)
3. Childcare caters for child/children's needs (104)
4. Childcare is located well within Torfaen (94)

Therefore this could propose a shift in parent/carers perceptions when formally using childcare. Future consideration must be given to families not currently using childcare to help them make informed decisions about childcare and the financial help available. This is addressed within the Action Plan.

Comments abstracted from the parent / carer survey and focus groups made references to trust when using childcare. Data from the parent / carer survey also reveals that 68 families are using family and friends for childcare purposes. It can be considered that further work amongst childcare providers and the public is needed to help parents make informed decisions into using regulated childcare in Torfaen, whilst also identifying the financial benefits of using registered childcare. This will be detailed within the Action Plan.

15.3 Childcare provision for children of parents who work atypical hours

It can be questioned in an increasingly changing environment what constitutes as 'atypical' working hours. As this is not actively asked within the consultation we can only assume that atypical hours are "...all situations where people have to work at times which are usually reserved for family or rest: working very early in the morning (before 8 a.m.), late in the evening (after 6 p.m.), during the night, on Saturdays and/or on Sundays" (Le Bihan & Martin, 2004, pp. 566 - 567).

Consultation with stakeholders (pgs. 203-267) revealed that there is an increased need for out of school care, particularly during holiday time for older children (once they enter secondary school).

One participant highlighted that there is not enough flexibility for families working atypical hours, with specific reference being made to the availability of childcare places post a certain time after school. It was considered that the demand of childcare over 2 hours after school is relatively low, however this is not meeting the needs of parents who need the provision for longer. It was considered that if childcare settings need to open for an additional hour for a minority of children, there would need to be a subsidy grant for settings to warrant the extra costs for staffing levels. However other stakeholders revealed that 2 out of 3 settings they currently support offer extended hours to meet the needs of working parents. Further investigation would be needed to ascertain whether it is financially viable for childcare providers to offer extended opening hours to parents who work atypical hours.

Consultation with parent / carers identified that those who are not using childcare rate that childcare before 8am, after 7pm and during weekends are times where childcare is not available to them. Further highlighting a need for childcare before 8am, before school 7.30am – 9am, after school 3.30pm-6pm, and after 6pm during term time. Those who currently do not use childcare also identified the need to improve childcare times between 8am-6pm, before 8am and those similar to term time during school holidays. In addition to this there are also a number of parents indicated in the parent / carer survey who require childcare over weekends during both term time and school holidays.

Despite the parent/carer analysis being statistically insignificant 40% of respondents from the parent / carer survey believe that childcare isn't available at the time required.

Parent / carers who would potentially use childcare in the near future identified a need for childcare 8am – 6pm during Monday – Tuesday. Whilst other days were identified, they were of a lesser value indicating a potential need for part time childcare. Childcare after 6pm was also identified as a main requirement for future childcare use.

Consultation with Childcare Providers (pgs. 203-267) highlighted some barriers for children of parents who work atypical hours, however they also identified that they are trying to meet the needs of parents by offering flexible childcare such as flexible hours and ad hoc basis.

It was considered that some childcare providers are unable to meet the needs of this specific group due to regulation constraints set by CSSIW, therefore this is beyond their control. Some childcare providers acknowledge that they are more willing to help meet the needs of shift workers, with one childcare setting providing a service from 6am, however this same service does not cater for post 6pm.

The most common improvement suggestion made by childcare providers regarding the childcare needs of working families was expanding the length of childcare sessions, and increasing the flexibility of childcare hours. However further research would need to be conducted to establish as to whether these childcare settings could continue to be sustainable. Suggestions included;

- Ability to offer different hours from week to week
- Longer hours
- Flexibility of opening and closing times
- Flexible rota

Consultation with childcare providers revealed that certain areas within Torfaen have sufficient childcare provision to meet the needs of working families. Two wards within the Pontypool area (Trevethin and St.Cadocs) were scored highly by childcare providers as having sufficient childcare for working parents. However, this cannot be confirmed by both the analysis of supply and through the parent / carer survey. Blaenavon was identified by childcare providers as having one insufficient childcare provision to meet the needs of working parents, and this has also been identified through the analysis of supply and consultation with childcare providers. In addition to this there are no childminders within the Blaenavon area.

Other areas identified as having low childcare provision included 3 wards within the Cwmbran area (Croesyceiliog, Llantarnam and St. Dials), however shortfalls have not necessarily been addressed in other consultations, with the exception of a potential shortfall of out of school childcare based within Cwmbran. SASS data also suggests there are inconsistencies in the opening times of providers.

15.4 Welsh Medium Childcare Provision

Population figures for Torfaen show that there are 594 Welsh language learners for the academic year 2016/17 and a total of 8,641 Welsh speakers aged 3+ living within Torfaen. Gaps in Welsh Medium are as follows;

Childminders

Supply analysis based on the SASS data reveals there are no childminders who exclusively provide childcare through the medium of Welsh and there are no Welsh medium places being occupied.

Full Day Care

Based on the SASS data, 1 setting provides exclusive Welsh provision, which is located in the Pontypool area. This includes:

- Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin sessions am and pm
- Before and After School Care
- Wrap Around
- Lunch Club

The 1 setting is registered for 19 places, with a maximum capacity of 62. There are 44 full time, 13 part time and 1 adhoc children attending. The majority of Welsh medium places are accessed through Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin both am and pm sessions. 41% of these are accessed through full day care places.

Welsh medium childcare is only available for children aged 2 - 5 years, and is available in the Pontypool area. During term time Welsh medium childcare is only available in Pontypool between the hours of 8:30am and 15:15pm, which can be acknowledged as not being full day care opening hours. In addition to this the Welsh medium childcare in the Pontypool area is not consistent Monday to Friday and is predominantly more available during the morning sessions. Supply data indicates that there are 4 vacancies.

Bilingual childcare is available for children under 12 months to 4 years at two childcare settings in the Cwmbran area with a maximum capacity of 49 childcare places available, despite being registered for 62. However 80 children accessed bilingual childcare during term time.

There are no Welsh medium childcare places during the school holidays, however there 46 bilingual places available between the hours 8:00am – 6:00pm and is exclusively delivered by one childcare provider.. Supply data reveals that 40 children aged under 12 months to 4 years accessed bilingual full day care during term time, and may suggest that there is a possible shortfall in the number of bilingual places available across Torfaen.

There is no Welsh medium childcare in the Blaenavon area. There are no full day care settings within the Blaenavon area who deliver through incidental Welsh.

Welsh medium childcare is only identified within a playgroup/Cylch Meithrin setting, and is considered as full day care, not sessional childcare amongst the SASS data.

Sessional childcare is delivered exclusively through English medium and within the Pontypool and Cwmbran area. No sessional childcare is available in the Blaenavon area.

Out of School Care

Based on SASS data, there is no Welsh medium out of school childcare provision.

Open Access Play Provision

Based on SASS data, there are only 2 Welsh medium open access play provisions, with a total of 180 places available in the Cwmbran area for children aged 5 – 12 years available during Summer 2016 (out of a total of 3330 places available).

There is only 1 Welsh medium open access play provision, with a total of 60 places available in the Cwmbran area for children aged 5 – 12 years available during February, June and October half term (out of a total 890 places available). Open access play provision is only available in the Cwmbran area.

Nanny

Based on SASS data, there are no nannies registered for home based childcare in Torfaen.

Parent Carer survey

0.4% of respondents were Welsh speaking only. The majority of 129 parent carers who responded to the section about Welsh medium childcare believe there is enough childcare within Torfaen (34%). 1 parent/carer responded by saying there was only one Welsh medium childcare in their area, which was costly, however [they have] no choice.

Only 8 children accessed Welsh medium childcare during term time out of 129 children taken from the Parent/Carer survey who use childcare and by language category. No children accessed childcare in the Blaenavon and Pontypool area with only 6 children accessing in the Cwmbran area during term time.

Only 4 children accessed Welsh medium childcare during school holidays (out of 56 children taken from the Parent/Carer survey who use childcare and by language category). No children accessed childcare in the Blaenavon and Pontypool area with only 4 children accessing in the Cwmbran area during the school holidays.

Future demand data shows there is no Welsh medium childcare demand.

Language requirements for families potentially using childcare would prefer to use English medium childcare and there are no requirements for Welsh medium or any other language.

Welsh medium non-maintained nursery provision

Welsh medium childcare places are relatively low for non-maintained nursery education, and is funded exclusively through one childcare provider located within the Pontypool area. A total of 48 3/4 year olds attended Monday – Friday at a Welsh medium childcare morning setting in the Pontypool area. A further 34 3/4 year olds attended Monday to Friday during the afternoon. There is limited rising three availability for Welsh medium education within the Panteg area.

Free breakfast club provision

There are a total of 7,253 free breakfast initiatives available in Torfaen, 498 of those are available in Welsh medium schools. Data abstracted from the parent carer survey revealed a need for a breakfast club at a Welsh medium school in Cwmbran.

Consultation with Schools

33% of respondents identified a lack of childcare within the local area and also identify issues such as lack of Welsh medium provision.

Consultation with Employers

Welsh language was identified as improvement suggestion to childcare, and to aid the recruitment and retention of staff.

Consultation with Jobcentre Plus

No barriers were identified by families being supported by Jobcentre Plus, however it was reported there is limited places available.

Consultation with Stakeholders

Welsh medium provision was thought to be poor by 20% of stakeholders, with 20% thinking it was good. 60% did not respond to this question.

One participant who supports settings encourage Welsh speakers to complete their Level 3 and 5 in their groups as they require Welsh speaking staff. It was proposed that not all Welsh medium childcare are advertised through the medium of Welsh.

Consultation with childcare providers

Of those consulted, 2 childcare providers indicated they are Welsh medium, which decreased by 1% from 2014. The lowest overall score for not meeting specific needs was for Welsh/Bilingual provision, with only an increase of 0.1 from 2014. Croesyceiliog was assigned the lowest average rating of 1.7, between very poor and fairly poor for Welsh/Bilingual. Trevethin was assigned the highest average rating of 4.2 or fairly good.

After School Club, Before School club and Holiday Club delivering Welsh/Bilingual childcare provision is considered below satisfactory.

Consultation with Childcare Providers revealed that 14% of settings require a lot of support for Welsh medium provision. Childminders, Playgroups/Cylch Meithrin, Day Nursery, Wraparound and Crèche are more likely to require a lot of support with using the Welsh language.

Welsh language was requested by providers in Blaenavon, Croesyceiliog, Fairwater, Llantarnam, New Inn, Panteg and St Dial's wards.

15.5 Childcare Provision for different language categories

Information abstracted from the SASS data revealed only two full day care settings use other languages. These were identified as;

- French
- Signalong

Neither of these are first languages and are indicated within the 'other language details'.

Primary Language spoken within the home revealed that;

- 0.4% are Welsh only
- 89.9% are English only
- 8.5% are Bilingual
- 2.2% are other languages, which include Portuguese(1), Czech (1), Polish (2), Bilingual in English and Polish(1)
Unknown (1)

By evaluating the supply and demand for childcare, it can be considered that childcare within Torfaen is sufficient in meeting families language needs.

15.6 Other childcare needs not being met

15.6.1 Types of childcare available

Data from the SASS analysis reveals there is a substantial amount of childcare in Torfaen and the maximum number of places are disseminated as follows;

Childminder- 406 term time and 273 school holidays

Full Day Care - 3594 term time and 919 school holidays

Sessional Day Care – 123 term time, 32 school holidays

Out of School Care – 163 term time, 92 school holidays

There are a total of 4,286 childcare places during term time which reduces to 1,316 (excluding the number of play provisions and free breakfast initiative).

Weaknesses within childcare types and potential gaps in Torfaen might be considered as follows;

Childminder

- No registered childminders in the Blaenavon area
- A reduced capacity for wraparound facilities
- No Welsh or Bilingual Childminders
- Lack of provision for children aged 12 years + compared to 0-11 years
- Lack of overnight and weekend care
- Reduced provision for children aged 12 months and under
- Limited provision available after 6pm
- Larger number of places in the Cwmbran area
- Potential demand for more afterschool provision

Full Day Care

- No Welsh Medium or Bilingual provision in the Blaenavon area
- Places available are significantly lower in school holidays, however this is due to many settings operating term time only
- Attendance levels in Blaenavon appear to be lower than the number of places available
- Opening times presented are inconsistent

Sessional Childcare

- No Welsh or Bilingual provision identified

Out of School Provision

- Significant reduction in the number of places available during school holidays between 09.30am-4.30pm
- Reduced number of places available in Blaenavon compared to Cwmbran and Pontypool
- No provision for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Blaenavon area
- Breakfast club for Welsh Medium School based in Cwmbran
- No registered childcare provision for children aged 12 - 17 years

Consultation with children and young people revealed improvement suggestions to registered childcare provisions included;

- More variety of items in the dressing up box
- More age appropriate play equipment. Some children/young people reported items as 'childish'
- Children/young people who attended a provision in a demountable building on a school site reported that they felt the space was small and they are unable to access the outdoor areas to play.
- Some children/young people further reported that occasionally they missed certain activities at club due to other commitments (such as after-school activities)

Further consultation amongst childcare providers could be obtained to ascertain improvement suggestions for specific age groups, this is detailed in the Action Plan.

Creche facilities were identified through data submitted within Full Day Care, therefore gaps within creche provision cannot exclusively be determined.

It is evident that the area of Blaenavon identifies a number of gaps, however information from the parent/ carer survey reveals little demand for childcare, therefore proposing there is sufficient childcare provision. However consultation with Jobcentre Plus suggest there is a gap in provision for working parents, therefore further investigation will be needed and this will be addressed in the Action Plan.

The availability of childcare places was the main improvement suggestion for working parents who participated in the focus groups, stressing a need for using a childminder that can cater for more than one child. This was further confirmed by those who participated in the focus group 'people with an interest in childcare'. It was revealed by one parent/carer that they found it particularly difficult to find different provision to cater for each child.

15.6.2 Children with a special educational need

Data from the SASS shows that there are a total of 107 children with a special educational need or who require specialist care due to a disability accessing a childcare place through childminders, full day care and sessional care. This does not take into account the number of children who attend specialised play provisions, who provide respite care for children aged 5 - 18 years with profound and complex needs. Information abstracted from the parent / carer survey and focus groups suggests that parents are satisfied with childcare that caters to their child's needs. Parental comments reveal that there isn't enough provision for children with autism, however current data would suggest that there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of children with a disability.

Consultation with stakeholders reveals that good practice amongst childcare providers should be shared to other childcare settings to demonstrate how integrating children with additional needs improves outcome for those children. A number of stakeholders raised concerns about the implementation of 30 hours childcare and how this would need the needs of families of children with a disability. It was considered that existing provision does not fully meet individual needs and improvements will need to be made. Financial implications were also discussed during the consultation with stakeholders, highlighting the cost to provide 1:1 support and training requirements needed by staff. Torfaen County Borough Council will need to examine the implications of the 30 hours childcare

15.6.3 Age of children for whom childcare is available

Data suggests a shortfall in the number of childcare places for children over 12 years old within a childminder and out of school provision. Comments abstracted from the parent /carer survey reveals that there is no full day provision for school aged children and may require childcare for secondary school aged children.

Childminders predominately care for children 0 - 12 years with only 1 childminder offering care for 15 - 17 year olds. However there are a total of 8 children aged 12 - 17 years who are being catered for. Please note that a number of childminders are now registered to provide care up to the age of 14 years, however this was not identified on the SASS data.

Data from the SASS reveals that Full Day Care predominantly caters for children aged 0 - 5 years, however some provisions cater for children aged 5 - 12 years. This can be assumed that out of school childcare is available on the same site.

It is considered that there is a gap in wrap around facilities amongst childminders, however analysis shows that there are a high number of childminders providing care for 3 - 4 year olds. The implementation of the Welsh Government 30 hours childcare offer may propose further investigation to examine the sufficiency amongst childminders, sessional childcare and out of school providers. Out of school provision predominately caters for children aged 4 - 11 years, however one provider caters for 3 year olds during term time only. Again with the implementation of the 30 hours childcare offer, further investigation will need to be conducted to establish if out of school provisions are able to provide this service.

Due to a low response rate from the parent / carer survey it cannot be determined if there is a significant need for out of school provision during term time and school holidays for children aged 11 - 14 years. However future consultation with school councils and further analysis into the population figures for children aged 11 - 17 year old may provide an insight, this will be addressed in the Action Plan.

Mid-year population figures from 2014 suggest that there are decreases in the number of children aged 0 - 2 years, 6 - 7 year olds and 11 - 17 year olds since the last full assessment. Data further reveals increases in the number of children aged 3 - 5 years, and 8 - 10 year old. There is not enough evidence from the parent / carer survey to suggest there is a demand for childcare within these age groups and supply data suggests that there are vacancies.

15.6.4 Affordability of childcare

Information abstracted from the parent / carer survey revealed that those who are currently not using childcare rate Affordability as the main improvement suggestion to childcare in Torfaen both during term time and school holidays. Expensive childcare costs are also identified as the second most favourable reason for not using childcare.

Data abstracted from the parent care survey revealed that families were divided about their knowledge on the financial help available with childcare costs.

Sessional costs within childcare was identified as a main improvement suggestion through a number of consultations. Information abstracted from the working parent's focus group revealed that parents may pay the full session costs despite the children attending for a short period of time. This was further acknowledged within the consultation with childcare providers who highlighted a need for more flexible hours and costs. However it was also identified that certain provisions may struggle to accommodate this need due to sustainability issues. It was also discussed that parents may be paying for childcare when it is not required during the school holidays. One parent in particular revealed that due to not working during the school holidays, the childcare place was still payable to continue during term time. This could potentially have an impact on a number of working parents who work term time only.

Information analysed from the focus groups reveal that Cost / Affordability of childcare is the main improvement suggestion amongst lone parents, and those with an interest in childcare.

Financial help with the cost of childcare will change during 2017-2018 in Torfaen. The introduction of Tax-Free Childcare Scheme and Universal Credit will enable a number of families to become eligible for help with the cost of registered childcare. This will be widely promoted through Torfaen along with the benefits of using registered childcare. This is detailed in the Action Plan.

15.6.5 Times at which childcare is available

Consultation with stakeholders revealed that only 40% considered that there are good opening hours of childcare in Torfaen.

Full day care opening times are inconsistent (based on SASS data) and are questionable amongst all childcare types. Information from the parent / carer survey suggests a potential demand for childcare before 8am.

Places available through the medium of Welsh are not consistent Monday – Friday during term time and are only available in the Pontypool area.

Data presented from the parent / carer survey reveals a minority of families require childcare over weekends and emergency childcare during term time and school holiday. This was further identified within the focus group with persons with an interest in childcare who identified the need for emergency childcare when using temping agencies.

15.6.6 Location of childcare

Population mid-year estimates show that there are more children aged 0 - 17 years residing within the Cwmbran area. This may support the analysis which shows that predominantly the number of childcare places are greater within the Cwmbran area compared to Pontypool and Blaenavon. However, potential location gaps are suggested as follows;

- Childminder places are marginally distributed equally both within the Pontypool and Cwmbran area, however attendance figures show a significant amount of children attending more part time childcare within Cwmbran.
- Flying Start childcare offered through a childminder provision is only available in the Pontypool area
- 78% of open access playschemes are based within the Cwmbran area, however information from the parent / carer survey indicates little demand for open access playschemes in other areas
- Welsh medium childcare is only located term time in the Pontypool area

- Bilingual childcare is only available in full day care provision in Cwmbran
- Location of childcare is a gap for Syrian families who are in adult education. This was a main barrier to them initially.
- Location of childcare is a concern for lone parents especially those on low incomes, and reference was made to travel costs. Therefore highlighting a need to promote childcare locally. Support for childcare providers to aid promotion are detailed within the Action Plan.
- Childcare which is located to home/child's school are the 3rd and 4th main preference for parent / carers future childcare use.

15.6.7 Areas for Improvement

The introduction of Welsh Governments 30 hour's childcare was identified through a number of consultations, suggesting that this may benefit working parents in the near future.

Consultation with Stakeholders revealed that they hope this will support low income families, however improvements will need to be made for those working 16 hours per week, which may include flexible opening hours and flexible models of childcare. Suggestions included sessional childcare (e.g playgroup/meithrin session), and a childminder to wraparound the rest of the working parent's day.

The implementation of the 30 hours childcare was also identified within the consultation with employers, where a concern was raised as to whether it may have a financial detriment on privately run settings.

Torfaen County Borough Council acknowledges that extensive consultation will need to be addressed amongst childcare providers to govern the sustainability when implementing the 30 hours childcare offer. This will be addressed within the Action Plan and further consultation will be submitted to Welsh Government in March 2018.

Evidence abstracted from the Supply of childcare and the Consultation with Stakeholders highlights the recent changes in childcare regulations during April 2016. A number of closed access playschemes closed during summer 2016 due to them not being able to provide the existing provision under new CSSIW regulations. Whilst some provisions were operated through Torfaen Play Service at 1 hour 59 mins, this is a significant reduction of the number of places and decreased opening times from those that had previously been available to parents. It can be considered that historically many parents may have used this for childcare purposes, however it is worth noting that there is no reference to the loss of provision in the Parent / Carer survey. Thus questioning whether the demand has been met by alternative childcare providers.

Continued promotion of childcare provisions available is required. Focus group information revealed that one parent believed that the cost of childcare was a direct result of the quality provided. It was also identified through consultation with stakeholders that the Family Information Service is required to keep parents well informed of childcare options and to potentially advertise the training implemented at settings. Consultation with schools revealed that 78% who responded to the survey knew where local childcare was located, however they further commented that they were unsure if there was sufficient childcare locally to cater the needs of families that attend the schools. In addition to this schools reported that parents do not approach them for childcare but do request after school clubs, wrap around and Flying Start. Additional promotion of local childcare will be needed within school provisions and addressed in the Action Plan.

16. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment –Action Plan

The Action Plan must detail the actions, priorities and milestones to maintain strengths and address shortcomings identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

The tables below identify those areas which must inform the assessment as per the statutory guidance.

Please note that potential weaknesses may not be a true indication of local need due to a number of discrepancies within the data used. Torfaen County Borough Council acknowledges all potential insignificant gaps and will determine actions where appropriate. A service based Action Plan will also be submitted April 2017.

Assessment of Demand

Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No requirements for Welsh medium or any other language ➤ Childcare use of Family / Friends is the main reason for not using childcare (Parent / Carer Survey) ➤ The demand for childcare is relatively low for the Blaenavon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Insufficient response rate from Parent / Carer Survey ➤ Several parent / carers failed to complete this section of the survey ➤ Family and Friends are the main type of childcare being used based on responses from the parent carer survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analysis of the supply of childcare to be submitted to Welsh Government March 2018 with Annual Review, to identify any potential gaps in supply. ➤ Increased promotion of future Parent / Carer Surveys to identify childcare needs ➤ Promotion of using childcare to help parent / carers make informed decisions ➤ Awareness raising for parent / carers who are unemployed or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigate future FIS support due to reduced capacity within the team, which may result in a number of actions not being addressed ➤ Rebrand of FIS website ➤ Future consideration must be given to families not currently using childcare to help them make informed decisions about childcare and the financial help available ➤ Acquire a variety of promotional materials 	

<p>area, this supports the supply analysis that indicated there is sufficient childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent/carers using childcare are satisfied with the quality of childcare during term time ➤ Local knowledge, good practice and training for children with a disability to be disseminated to other providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Time gaps for childcare before 8am, after 6pm and weekend care during term time and school holidays ➤ Affordability is main improvement for those not using childcare ➤ Quality of Childcare is the 2nd most improvement suggestion for those not currently using childcare ➤ Insufficient data regarding the take up and understanding of the financial help available 	<p>economically inactive and not using childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of the benefits of using registered childcare ➤ Promotion for the introduction to Tax-Free Childcare, Universal Credit and 30 hours childcare offer for Wales ➤ Review existing Assisted Places Grant for TCBC through consultation with childcare providers and stakeholders ➤ Consultation with Childcare providers to establish the availability of flexible childcare places to meet the needs of working parents and examining their sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of possible consultation of local childcare needs based on main areas for improvement identified in the Gaps Analysis. 	
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	<p>for the cost of childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demand for flexible childcare to meet the needs of working parents ➤ Parental comments identify lack of childcare for children with autism ➤ Concerns that the 30 hours childcare offer will not meet the 1:1 needs of families of a child/ren with a disability. Suggested improvements required in relation to funding and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultation with Childcare Providers to evaluate the supply of places required for the 30 hours childcare offer including meeting the needs of children with a disability ➤ Childcare Network Meetings to promote practice worth sharing with regards to settings meeting the needs of children with a disability. ➤ Promote existing Autism awareness training (workshops and 1:1 support) for childcare settings. ➤ Consultation with school councils, parent / carers and participation officers to establish childcare requirements for 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential gaps in provision for 11-14 years during term time and school holidays ➤ Vacancy data suggests that there is a demand for afterschool childcare within childminder provision as the number of children attending exceeds the maximum capacity of places available 	<p>children aged 11-14 years</p>		
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Assessment of Supply

Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
<p>➤ Some flexible childcare use among all childcare provisions</p> <p><u>Childminder</u></p> <p>➤ All childminders who completed the SASS offer Full Day Care (44)</p> <p>➤ 82% of childminders who responded</p>	<p>➤ Discrepancies within childcare supply through the SASS data. Incomplete return of responses</p> <p>➤ Inconsistent opening times from the SASS data does not comprehensively detail flexible childcare options</p> <p>➤ Lack of childcare for children aged 12 years + However demand is relatively low</p> <p><u>Childminder</u></p> <p>➤ No registered childminders in the Blaenavon area</p> <p>➤ A reduced capacity for wraparound facilities</p>	<p>➤ To update and review the FIS database with most recent childcare places (both registered and un-registered). Analysis of the supply of childcare to be submitted to Welsh Government March 2018 with Annual Review, to identify any potential language gaps and number of places available.</p> <p>➤ Promote becoming a registered childminder in the Blaenavon area through possible consultation with local schools and outreach events.</p> <p>➤ Examine gaps in provision for</p>		

<p>to the SASS offer after school provision, and 75% offer a before school, potentially suggesting that over 65% of all childminders in Torfaen provide after school care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 72% of childminders who responded to the SASS offer holiday provision ➤ 1 childminder is identified as being able to care for children aged 15-17 years ➤ Childminders offer a variety of flexible opening hours and provide childcare before 8.00am and up to 6pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No Welsh or Bilingual Childminders ➤ Lack of provision for children aged 12 years + compared to 0 - 11 year olds ➤ Lack of overnight and weekend care ➤ Reduced provision for children aged 12 months and under ➤ Limited provision available after 6pm ➤ Larger number of places in the Cwmbran area ➤ Potential demand for more afterschool provision 	<p>Working parents in the Blaenavon area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consult with Childcare Providers to ascertain improvement suggestions for children and young people ➤ Mapping and scoping exercise to be completed to ascertain the number of out of school childcare provision available. This may determine whether there is sufficient childcare in Torfaen to compliment the 30 hours childcare offer. Please also see the analysis of childcare supply. 		
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<p><u>Full Day Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vacancies for children aged 12 months and under (based on attendance figures) ➤ 6 providers open from 7.30am ➤ Waiting lists are predominantly low 	<p><u>Full Day Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No Welsh Medium or Bilingual provision in the Blaenavon area ➤ Places available are significantly lower in school holidays, however this is due to many settings operating term time only ➤ Attendance levels in Blaenavon appear to be lower than the number of places available ➤ Opening times presented are inconsistent 			
<p><u>Sessional Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vacancies are available in the Pontypool area ➤ No waiting lists 	<p><u>Sessional Childcare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No Welsh or Bilingual provision identified <p><u>Out of School Provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significant reduction in the 			

<p><u>Out of School Provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vacancy updates suggest possible places available in before school provision ➤ There is some out of school provision to cater for 12-14 year olds ➤ Only 1 childcare setting in the Pontypool area provides out of school care before 8am and after 5.30pm, this can also be perceived as a weakness 	<p>number of places available during school holidays between 09.30am-4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced number of places available in Blaenavon compared to Cwmbran and Pontypool ➤ No provision for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Blaenavon area ➤ Breakfast club for Welsh Medium School based in Cwmbran ➤ No registered childcare provision for children aged 12 - 17 years <p>➤</p> <p><u>Open Access Provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The number of children attending open access playschemes geographically 			
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<p><u>Open Access Provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large number of open access playschemes and after school play clubs available for children aged 5-12 years ➤ Playschemes available for children with complex and profound disabilities in the Cwmbran (for children aged 12+years) and Pontypool area (for children aged 5-12 years) ➤ Children who require 1:1 support can access summer playschemes and open 	<p>was unattainable, therefore accurate take up of places cannot be determined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The loss of closed access summer playschemes significantly reduced the number of places available during 09.30am – 4.30pm ➤ Reduced number of places available in the Blaeanavon area compared to Cwmbran and Pontypool ➤ Welsh provision is only available in the Cwmbran area ➤ 78% of open access summer playschemes are delivered within the Cwmbran area ➤ There are no provisions for children with complex and profound 			
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<p>access play clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All open access summer playschemes use incidental welsh <p><u>Children and young people improvement suggestions to registered childcare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The consultation with children and young people highlights that the majority of children struggled to identify activities and specific items that they dislike at childcare. 	<p>disabilities in the Blaeanavon area</p> <p><u>Children and young people improvement suggestions to registered childcare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More variety of items in the dressing up box ➤ More age appropriate play equipment. Some children/young people reported items as 'childish' ➤ Children/young people who attended a provision in a demountable building on a school site reported that they felt the space was small and they are unable to access the outdoor areas to play. ➤ Some children/young people further 			
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<p>Children and young people thoroughly enjoyed participating in the consultation by expressing their views and having their 'voice heard'.</p> <p><u>3 / 4 year old entitlement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supply data reveals potential 	<p>reported that occasionally they missed certain activities at club due to other commitments (such as after-school activities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential gaps in existing provision with regard to out of school childcare to meet the requirements of the 30 hours childcare offer <p><u>3 / 4 year old entitlement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance figures are unavailable ➤ No Bilingual provision in both Maintained and Non Maintained (Private/Voluntary) settings ➤ Limited spaces / no spaces for rising threes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with School Admissions to monitor and record attendance figures 		
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<p>capacity for rising three places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 21st Century Schools Plan has seen increases in the number of places ➤ Fair distribution of maintained and private/voluntary childcare providers within Torfaen 	<p>potentially entering education early 2017 in Pontypool (New Inn 2, Penygarn and St.Cadocs) and Cwmbran (Coed Eva and Croesyceiliog North 1)</p>	<p>for both maintained and Non Maintained settings in preparation for next full assessment in 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify Welsh Medium training requirements within the Non-Maintained sector ➤ Promotion of alternative rising three provision in surrounding areas where gaps are applicable 		
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Analysis of supply and demand of overall childcare provision

Category	Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
<p>Type of available childcare e.g full day care, sessional care, after school care, childminder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SASS data suggests there are vacancies both term time and school holidays amongst a number of childcare types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incomplete data from SASS does not present a true reflection of the supply of childcare in Torfaen ➤ No registered childminders in Blaenavon. Demand may suggest a lack of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Family Information Service to submit a separate supply analysis based on information held locally 		

		<p>childcare needs in the Blaenavon area, however further consultations with JCP identify a gap and therefore require examining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a reduced capacity for wraparound childcare amongst childminders ➤ There is more after school provision available than before school provision within Childminder provision 			
<p>Childcare catering for children of a specific age, eg from birth, from 2 years or over 8 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a large number of childminders who provide care for children ages 3-4 years and 5-7 years ➤ Potential gaps in Out of School and childminder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only 41% of childminders who responded to the SASS provide care for children aged under 12months 			

	provision for over 8 year olds				
Affordable childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For those currently using childcare, quality of care is more important than the affordability of childcare ➤ Consultation with Childcare Providers reports a willingness to offer more flexible childcare ➤ 95% of full day care settings offer sibling discount ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Affordable childcare is the main improvement suggestion for parent / carers not currently using childcare (based on Parent / Carer Survey) ➤ Consultation with Childcare Providers identifies a need to evaluate the sustainability of settings to be able to offer flexible hours / adhoc childcare ➤ Childcare costs from the SASS supply data is incomparable due to discrepancies between hourly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued observations and assessment of the quality of childcare in Torfaen through the Environmental Rating Scale ➤ Promote the benefits of participating in the Environmental Rating Scale with additional childcare providers ➤ Promote the financial benefits of using registered childcare. ➤ Promote the 30 hours childcare for eligible 		

		costs and full sessions costs. This does not provide an accurate summary of childcare costs in Torfaen	families once implemented in Torfaen ➤ Please see Supply Actions as detailed above		
Times at which childcare is available, including the need for flexible childcare catering for irregular patterns of usage across the day, the week and the year;	➤ Childminders offer a variety of flexible opening hours and provide childcare before 8.00am and up to 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 40% of respondents from the Parent / Carer Survey believe that childcare isn't available at the time required ➤ Consultation with childcare providers revealed that despite a willingness to cater for shift 			

		<p>workers, CSSIW restraints prevent them from doing so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The number of childcare places within Childminder provision is limited after 6pm 			
Location of childcare					
Welsh medium childcare provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incidental Welsh is used in over 50% of all full day care settings ➤ Future demand data shows there is no Welsh medium childcare demand. ➤ 34% of parents who responded to the Parent / Carer Survey believe there is enough Welsh Medium childcare within Torfaen (34%) ➤ Language requirements for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are no childminders who exclusively provide childcare through the medium of Welsh ➤ Only 1 Welsh Medium provision in Pontypool / term time only and for children aged 2 – 5 years ➤ Welsh Medium that is available in Torfaen is not consistent with 			

	<p>families potentially using childcare would prefer to use English medium childcare and there are no requirements for Welsh medium or any other language. Therefore suggesting no future demand to existing childcare</p>	<p>full day care operating hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No welsh Medium childcare places during school holidays, other than open access play provision for children aged 5 - 12 years (2 hours only) ➤ No open access play provision in Blaenavon and Pontypool ➤ No Welsh out of school provision ➤ Consultation with Childcare Providers revealed that 14% of settings require a lot of support for Welsh medium provision. ➤ Childminders, Playgroups/Cylch Meithrin, Day Nursery, 			
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		Wraparound and Crèche are more likely to require a lot of support with using the Welsh language.			
Childcare provision for different language categories	No gaps identified				

Issues facing specific categories of parents in relation to availability of childcare provision

Category	Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
Working parents	<u>Consultation with Employers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited concerns about the childcare market in Torfaen now and in the future, with reference being made to Welsh Government's proposal of 30 hours free childcare for 3 to 4 year olds. A minority of employers 	<u>Consultation with Employers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A minority of employers offer childcare related benefits, with childcare vouchers being the most frequently offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of the changes to the financial help available with childcare costs to employers once implemented in late 		

	<p>identifying childcare as being a factor in the recruitment and retention of staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The majority of employers who responded to the survey offer flexible working arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The majority of employers are unsure if there is sufficient childcare within Torfaen and many do not provide employees with information about childcare provision ➤ No responses from employers within the Blaenavon area ➤ The most common improvement suggestion made by childcare providers regarding the childcare needs of 	<p>2017 / early 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of FIS to employers in conjunction with Torfaen Economy and Enterprise Team ➤ Promotion of FIS through outreach events in Blaenavon (see promotion of childminder recruitment) ➤ Please see actions identified in the demand gaps of childcare 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus groups reveal Parents are using childcare and report a number of benefits such as; lack of support from 	<p>working families was expanding the length of childcare sessions and increasing the flexibility of childcare hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential request breakfast club provision within a school to open before 8.15am ➤ Focus group revealed a gap in paying for childcare when not needed during school holidays. Potentially this may affect a number of term time only parent / 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further consultation with schools to examine potential changes to opening times ➤ Please see actions identified in the demand gaps of childcare ➤ Childcare Development Officers to hold group or 1:1 sessions with 		
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	<p>family, childcare on site, socialisation, ability to start work on time and continued employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus group reveals childcare meets children's specific needs 	<p>carers and the flexibility of childcare needs evaluating for this specific group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Childcare closer to home is noted as the 3rd most important factor in choosing childcare for those identified not using childcare in the Parent / Carer Survey 	<p>providers to enhance marketing strategies</p>		
<p>Parents seeking work or training opportunities (including Lone Parents)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stakeholder consultation made specific reference to the PaCE project in meeting the needs of families seeking work or training 	<p><u>Focus group summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Affordability of childcare is the main barrier for parent / carers who participated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please see previous actions regarding childcare marketing within 		

		<p>in the focus group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Location and trust were the second and third main barriers for this specific group ➤ Results from the Parent / Carer Survey identified a minority of parents seeking work or training, however Affordability and Quality of childcare were the main considerations for using childcare 	<p>communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further collaboration between FIS and Employability Teams TCBC, JCP and PaCE to raise awareness of using childcare locally. Production of visual aids required 		
Unemployed households		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incompatible data abstracted from the Parent / Carer Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please see actions identified with those seeking 		

		<p>does not exclusively examine this specific group, however of those identified Affordable childcare is the main reason for not using childcare and the demand for childcare is not required due to them being stay at home parents</p>	<p>training and employment</p>		
<p>Low income families</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low number of respondents identified in the Parent / Carer Survey ➤ 50% of families identified in this category stated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased promotion of future Parent / Carer Surveys to identify childcare needs. 		

		Affordability and Quality of childcare as the main consideration for future childcare use			
Lone parent families	Please see gaps identified with parent / carers seeking work or training opportunities.				
Families from ethnic minority backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Childcare needs were met due to demand whilst participating in Adult Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultation with ethnic minority groups only established one focus group. Challenges prevented further consultations ➤ Location of childcare initially prevented further learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Future CSA consultation will examine additional ethnic minority groups 		
Families with children who have special educational needs or a disability		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultations with this specific group were not met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Future consultation with this specific group is 		

		<p>despite numerous attempts to collate this information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Parent / carer Survey identified a minority of parents who require Affordable, Good Quality, and Childcare Closer to home to meet future childcare needs	<p>needed and increased capacity is required.</p>		
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Other issues to be reflected in action plan

Category	Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
Sustainability of childcare sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assisted Places Scheme available ➤ Sustainability Grant Funding available to childcare providers ➤ Childcare Development Officers available to support settings in; Financial Management, Quality, Staffing, Recruitment, Welsh Government Guidance and Training. ➤ Flying Start Childcare continues to be sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited funding available ➤ Additional funding streams required ➤ Supply of childcare (SASS data) does not indicate whether there are too few or too many places available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of eligible criteria for Assisted Places ➤ Identify additional funding streams ➤ Supply of childcare analysis to be submitted March 2018 with annual progress report 		

Cross Border arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cross border funding for 3 / 4 year olds ➤ Continued FIS collaboration with neighbouring authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance data is currently unavailable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance data to be reviewed with School Admissions 		
Workforce Development and Training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SASS data did not meet the needs of the assessment ➤ Annual Workforce Development and Training audit does not correspond to the CSA timescale requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review Audit timescales to better meet the needs of the assessment. FIS to collaborate with Workforce Development Officer 		
Partnership Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Umbrella Organisations participate in Core Aim One meetings to represent childcare providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultation with Local Children's Board is absent in the Assessment ➤ Limited response from JCP in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued Quarterly Newsletters to be distributed to all childcare providers 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Network Meetings are held between childcare settings and Childcare Development Officers ➤ Quality of childcare jointly monitored between Childcare Team / Flying Start and EAS (where appropriate) 	<p>consultation with Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultation with Childcare Providers revealed Local Authority involvement (training and building requirements) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuation of Network meetings ➤ Continued quality assessments and observations with EAS ➤ Liaise with neighbouring Local Authorities to share good practice in relation to further training 		
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