
CARDIFF CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2022-2027

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with background information to undertake a pre-decision scrutiny of the Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027 attached at **Appendix A**. Members will be able to provide any comments, observations or recommendations for consideration prior to approval of the report at Cabinet on the 20 January 2022.

Structure of papers

2. Attached at **Appendix A** is the draft Cabinet Report, which will be considered on the 20 January 2022. In turn, Appendix A contains a further Appendix (**Appendix 1**) which is the detailed *“Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 – 2027 - Draft for consultation”*.
3. Attached as **Appendix B** to the papers is the presentation provided by the Service Area.

Scope of Scrutiny

4. At its meeting on the 20 January 2022, Cabinet will consider a report that seeks Cabinet endorsement to enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory responsibility to prepare and publish a local Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) by the 30th of June 2022.

5. During this scrutiny, Members have the opportunity to explore:
 - i) The proposal in relation to the Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027;
 - ii) The proposed approach to prepare and publish a local CSA;
 - iii) The proposals re the Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027;
 - iv) Whether there are any risks to the Council;
 - v) The timeline and next steps for delivering the Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027; and
 - vi) The recommendations to Cabinet.

Background Context

6. The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016 place a duty on local authorities to prepare and publish assessments of the sufficiency of the provision of childcare in its area.
7. The term childcare refers to childcare providers, such as childminders, full day-care, afterschool clubs, sessional day-care; and home childcare providers (nannies).
8. Local Authorities must usually prepare and publish their local Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) at five yearly intervals. Following the Covid-19 pandemic the Welsh Government deferred this requirement for 2021, setting the 30th of June 2022 as the new date for all CSA's to be submitted.
9. The legislation and accompanying guidance states that the key tasks that each Local Authority is required to undertake to assess the supply of childcare in their areas are:
 - i) to identify the demand for childcare
 - ii) to analyse if gaps exist and to develop an action plan to deliver the Local Authority's duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet local needs of parents, (albeit for working parents or parents undertaking education or training) to assist them to obtain work.

10. Regard must be given to families wishing to access childcare:

- i) through the medium of Welsh.
- ii) for children with a disability or additional need.
- iii) for those wishing to access childcare, funded via Flying Start, the Childcare Offer, employer supported vouchers or tax-free childcare and lower income families.

11. The legislation requires the draft CSA to be published bilingually on the Council's website for consultation and stakeholder feedback for a period of 28 days. The Local Authority must then amend the draft assessment in such a way as they consider appropriate, taking into account any comments received before the final submission of the assessment is made to Welsh Government.

Issues highlighted in the Cabinet Report and accompanying Appendix

12. The Cabinet Report at **Appendix A** highlights and summarises the following issues:

- Data sources for the draft CSA (*points 10 – 13 of the report*)
- Initial findings of the draft Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (*point 14*)
- Potential Unmet Demand - including by locality, Welsh medium provision, ALN, SEN and disability (*points 15 – 21*)
- Financial Implications (*points 24 – 27*)
- Legal Implications (*point 28*)

13. Cardiff Council's draft CSA proposed for public consultation is attached as **Appendix 1**. It is a substantial and detailed document (298 pages), with the contents summarised as follows.

- i) Executive Summary (*pages 2 – 7*)
- ii) Introduction & Context, which includes overview of responses to SASS, Dewis and Parent/carer survey (*pages 8 – 12*)
- iii) Partnership Working and Consultation (*page 13*)

- iv) The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Local Well-Being Needs Assessment (*page 14*)
- v) Population Profiles (*pages 15 – 43*)
- vi) Childcare Providers throughout Covid-19 (*pages 44 – 60*)
- vii) Overview –Childcare Types, Services and Places (*pages 61 – 84*)
- viii) Supply of Childcare (*pages 85 – 189*). ***Please see paragraphs 14 - 16 of this report for more details***
 - Childminder (*pages 85 – 107*)
 - Full Daycare Nursery (*pages 108 – 134*)
 - Sessional day care (*pages 135 - 157*)
 - Out of school (*pages 158 – 182*)
 - Open access play provision (*pages 183 – 185*)
 - Creche (*pages 186 – 188*)
 - Nannies (*page 189*)
- ix) Understanding the Needs of Parents/ Carers – survey results (*pages 190 – 238*)
- x) Free Nursery Education and Flying Start Provision (*pages 239 – 247*)
- xi) Welsh medium childcare provision and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (*page 248 – 260*)
- xii) Free Breakfast Club provision (*page 261*)
- xiii) Working Tax Credit/ Universal Credit and Employer Supported Childcare/ Tax Free Childcare (*pages 262 – 265*)
- xiv) Sustainability – resources/staffing (*pages 266 – 276*)
- xv) Consultation Responses (*pages 277 – 286*)
- xvi) Gap Analysis and Areas for Improvement (*pages 287 – 293*)
- xvii) Explanatory Notes (*pages 295 – 298*)

Supply of Childcare (pages 85 – 189)

14. A significant section of the report is dedicated to analysing and reporting on the current supply of childcare in Cardiff. This section of the report does so under the following subheadings:

- Childminder (pages 85 – 107)
- Full Daycare Nursery (pages 108 – 134)
- Sessional day care (pages 135 - 157)
- Out of school (pages 158 – 182)
- Open access play provision (pages 183 – 185)
- Creche (pages 186 – 188)
- Nannies (page 189)

Please note that much of the data supplied in Appendix 1 is analysed using Neighbourhood Planning Areas (NPAs) – Cardiff North, Cardiff East, Cardiff South East, City and Cardiff South, Cardiff South West, Cardiff West.

15. Detailed analysis of data contained in this section of Appendix 1 is set out under a number of headings, which includes the following:

- Headline data, including settings by NPA; places by NPA;
- Children on the books by age;
- Children on the books by attendance type;
- Waiting lists and vacancies, including waiting lists and vacancies by NPA;
- Languages, including Active Offer; Welsh language distribution by NPA; other languages
- Fees by age, including further breakdown of costs by age;
- Opening hours and atypical hours;
- Flying Start data;
- Childcare Offer;
- Tax Free Childcare or childcare vouchers;
- Summary of strengths and weaknesses

16. The following are extracts from Appendix 1, giving an overview of the **current position** in relation to each of the childcare types, as highlighted in paragraph 14 of this report. This is set out as follows:

- Headline data table
- Strengths and weaknesses identified for each childcare type.

Childcare Type: Childminder (pages 85 – 107)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Childminder headline data

Number of Registered Settings	185	Term time only	32
		Term time and holiday	153
		Holiday only	0
Number of Registered Places	1,557		
Number of children on books by age	1,461		
Number of children by attendance	1,461	Full time	187
		Part time	1,225
		Ad hoc	49
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	175/4		
Welsh	4	Provide active offer	13
		Working towards active offer	20
Number Providing Childcare Offer	120		
(Number Funded via Childcare Offer)	(65)		
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers	149		

Summary of strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Childminders operate in all NPAs across Cardiff
- Capacity exists across all services, in all NPAs, except for 3 children waiting for a half day care PM place in City and Cardiff South.

Weaknesses:

- Limited Welsh language provision across all NPA's
- Data robustness: 86 childminders reported an average of 197 children per week attending for an Early Education Placement (A local authority funded nursery education placement). The Local Authority reports that no children are funded to attend childminders for this provision in Cardiff.

Childcare Type: Full Daycare nursery (pages 108 – 134)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Full daycare headline data

Number of Registered Settings	83	Term time only	13
		Term time and holiday	2
		Holiday only	68
Number of Registered Places	4005		
Number of children on books by age	5379		
Number of children by attendance	5441	Full time	708
		Part time	4551
		Ad hoc	182
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	64/6		
Welsh	13	Provide active offer	20
		Working towards active offer	29
Flying Start provision	9		

Flying Start and fee paying	7
Only Flying Start	2
Number Providing Childcare Offer	76
(Number Funded via Childcare Offer)	(75)
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers	79

Summary of strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Full daycare settings operate in all NPAs across Cardiff
- There is significant capacity across most services. Four settings reported having 100 or more vacancies, with one reporting 342 vacancies.
- The majority of settings (76 of 83) provide the Childcare Offer, with 75 receiving funding
- The majority of settings (79 of 83) have parents who access Tax Free Childcare or childcare vouchers

Weaknesses:

- Limited Welsh language provision across all NPA's
- Data robustness: one setting has reported having 342 full day nursery vacancies and 297 half day nursery AM vacancies, but 314 children waiting for an immediate place for a half day nursery PM place. This level of data error impacts on the accuracy of the overall picture of demand and capacity. The Childcare Business Support Team will contact full daycare providers in the identified ward and seek to include corrected and accurate data in the post-consultation version of the CSA.
- Data robustness: 47 full daycare services reported an average of 2,146 children per week attending for an Early Education Placement (A local authority funded nursery education placement). The Local Authority reports that 21 children are funded to attend 3 full daycare settings for this service in Cardiff. Therefore, the maximum weekly attendance for an early education placement in full daycare settings is 105. (NB: As only 56

children in total are funded to attend non-maintained early education provision across full daycare and sessional settings, the maximum weekly attendance is 280)

Childcare Type: Sessional day care (pages 135 - 157)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Sessional day care headline data

Number of Registered Settings	39	Term time only	36
		Term time and holiday	2
		Holiday only	1
Number of Registered Places	1073		
Number of children on books by age	1336		
Number of children by attendance	1184	Full time	257
		Part time	902
		Ad hoc	25
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	33(2)		
Welsh	4	Provide Active Offer	
		Working towards Active Offer	
Flying Start provision	20		
Flying Start and fee paying	5		
Flying Start only	15		
Number Providing Childcare Offer	24		
(Number Funded via Childcare Offer)	(19)		
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers	13		

Strengths and weaknesses

- There are 9 sessional day care providers in Cardiff North, 8 in Cardiff South West and Cardiff West. There are over 200 sessional day care places provided in each of these NPAs, with over 100 in Cardiff East (7 settings, 173 places) and Cardiff South East (5 settings, 148 places).
- City and Cardiff South has the fewest settings and places (2 setting, 64 places)
- Overall there are more vacancies across sessional day care (619) than there are children on waiting lists (97) for all services except for lunch, where data indicates there are 14 children on an immediate waiting list and only 10 vacancies, a net shortfall of 4 places.
- However, there are some services in some NPAs showing a greater number of children waiting for an immediate place than there are vacancies (Mornings and Lunch sessions in Cardiff North; Lunch in Cardiff East; and Early Education Placements in Cardiff South West. However, Education have noted that this last data is incorrect, and there are no children waiting for an immediate Early Education place)

Childcare Type: Out of School (pages 158 – 182)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Out of school headline data

Number of Registered Settings	44	Term time only	30
		Term time and holiday	10
		Holiday only	4
Number of Registered Places	2272		
Number of children on books by age	2757		
Number of children by attendance	2590	Full time	176
		Part time	1862
		Ad hoc	552
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	37(2)		

Welsh	5	Provide Active Offer	5
		Working towards Active Offer	4
Flying Start provision			
Flying Start and fee paying		1	
Flying Start only		0	
Number Providing Childcare Offer		19	
(Number Funded via Childcare Offer)		(10)	
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers		39	

Strengths and weaknesses

- Overall, there are more vacancies across out of school care (2070) than there are children waiting for an immediate place (219) except for a shortfall of 4 places for playscheme sessions (10 children reported on waiting list; 6 vacancies)
- However, in Cardiff South West, the data appears to show a shortfall of 88 after school places (122 children waiting; 34 vacancies). NB: Please also see chapter 10: Welsh medium and WESP as this provider is a Welsh medium after school club. It is noted that this setting reports an average weekly attendance of around 300 children and is registered for 80 places per day, 400 places per week. It may be the case that the data relating to 'vacancies' has been transposed into the 'children waiting for an immediate place' column in error.

Childcare Type: Open access play provision (pages 183 – 185)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Open access play provision headline data

Number of Registered Settings	1	Term time only	-
		Term time and holiday	1
		Holiday only	-
Number of Registered Places	75		
Number of children on books by age	6		
Number of children by attendance	140	Full time	40
		Part time	80
		Ad hoc	20
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	1 (-)		
Welsh	-	Provide Active Offer	-
		Working towards Active Offer	-
Flying Start provision	-		
Flying Start and fee paying	-		
Flying Start only	-		
Number Providing Childcare Offer (Number Funded via Childcare Offer)	-		
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers	-		

NB: As there is only data relating to a single setting, where simpler to do so, information is conveyed through bullet pointed text

- No strengths and weaknesses reported

Childcare Type: Creche (pages 186 – 188)

The following data tables and charts are based on data collected via SASS

Table: Creche headline data

Number of Registered Settings	1	Term time only	1
		Term time and holiday	-
		Holiday only	-
Number of Registered Places	20		
Number of children on books by age	12		
Number of children by attendance	12	Full time	-
		Part time	12
		Ad hoc	-
Main Language of setting			
English/Both	1 (-)		
Welsh	-	Provide Active Offer	-
		Working towards Active Offer	1
Flying Start provision			
Flying Start and fee paying	1		
Flying Start only	-		
Number Providing Childcare Offer	1		
(Number Funded via Childcare Offer)	(1)		
Number Offering Tax Free Childcare or Vouchers	-		

NB: As there is only data relating to a single setting, where simpler to do so, information is conveyed through bullet pointed text

- No strengths or weaknesses reported

Childcare Type: Nannies (page 189)

As of June 1st, 2021, CIW reported that 14 nannies were registered on the 'Childcare at Home Voluntary Approval Scheme'. All were contacted by Cardiff Family Advice and Support and supplied with details as to how to create a Dewis record for their service. As of December 1st, 2021, none had taken up this offer and there are no nanny records live on Dewis.

Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet

17. The report to Cabinet contains the following recommendations:

- i) Approve publication of the draft Childcare Sufficiency Statement on the Cardiff Council website for public consultation.
- ii) Delegate authority to the Director for Adults, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, to approve the final version of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment having taken into account the results of the consultation.

Way Forward

18. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families) will be in attendance and may wish to make a statement. Helen Evans (Assistant Director - Housing & Communities); Avril Hooper (Operational Manager, Early Help); and Andy Senior (Senior Childcare Business Support Officer) will be in attendance to make a presentation (see **Appendix B**) and answer Members' questions.

19. The scope of this scrutiny is set out at Paragraph 5 of this report and provides a useful check list of the areas which Members may wish to scrutinise.

Financial Implications

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

Legal Implications

21. The Scrutiny Committees are empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information presented at the meeting;
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter in time for its meeting on 20 January 2022; and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

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11 January 2022