



Appendix B

**Cllr Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member for Children & Families**  
**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27**

Officers

Helen Evans – Assistant Director Housing & Communities

Avril Hooper: Operational Manager – Early Help

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**Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd**  
**Working for Cardiff, working together**

# Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2022 - 2027

- Legislative requirements
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# Legislative Requirements

- Duty on local authorities to prepare and publish assessments of the sufficiency of childcare in its area (The Childcare Act 2006)
  - **Childcare** - refers to child care providers, e.g. childminders, full day-care, afterschool clubs, sessional day-care and home childcare providers (nannies).
  - **Frequency** - Usually at 5 yearly intervals, however following the Covid-19 pandemic, the requirement to submit in 2021 was deferred until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - **Consultation** - Statutory 28 day consultation required on draft bi-lingual CSA, published on the Council's website. Final version must take consultation responses into account, as appropriate.



CYMORTH CYNNAR  
EARLY HELP

# Legislative Requirements

## Key Tasks

- Identify demand
- Analyse gaps
- Develop an action plan 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 or retain employment “*

## **Regard must be given to families wishing to access childcare:**

- through the medium of Welsh
- with children with a disability or additional need
- funded via Flying Start, the Childcare Offer, employer supported vouchers, or tax-free childcare and lower income families.



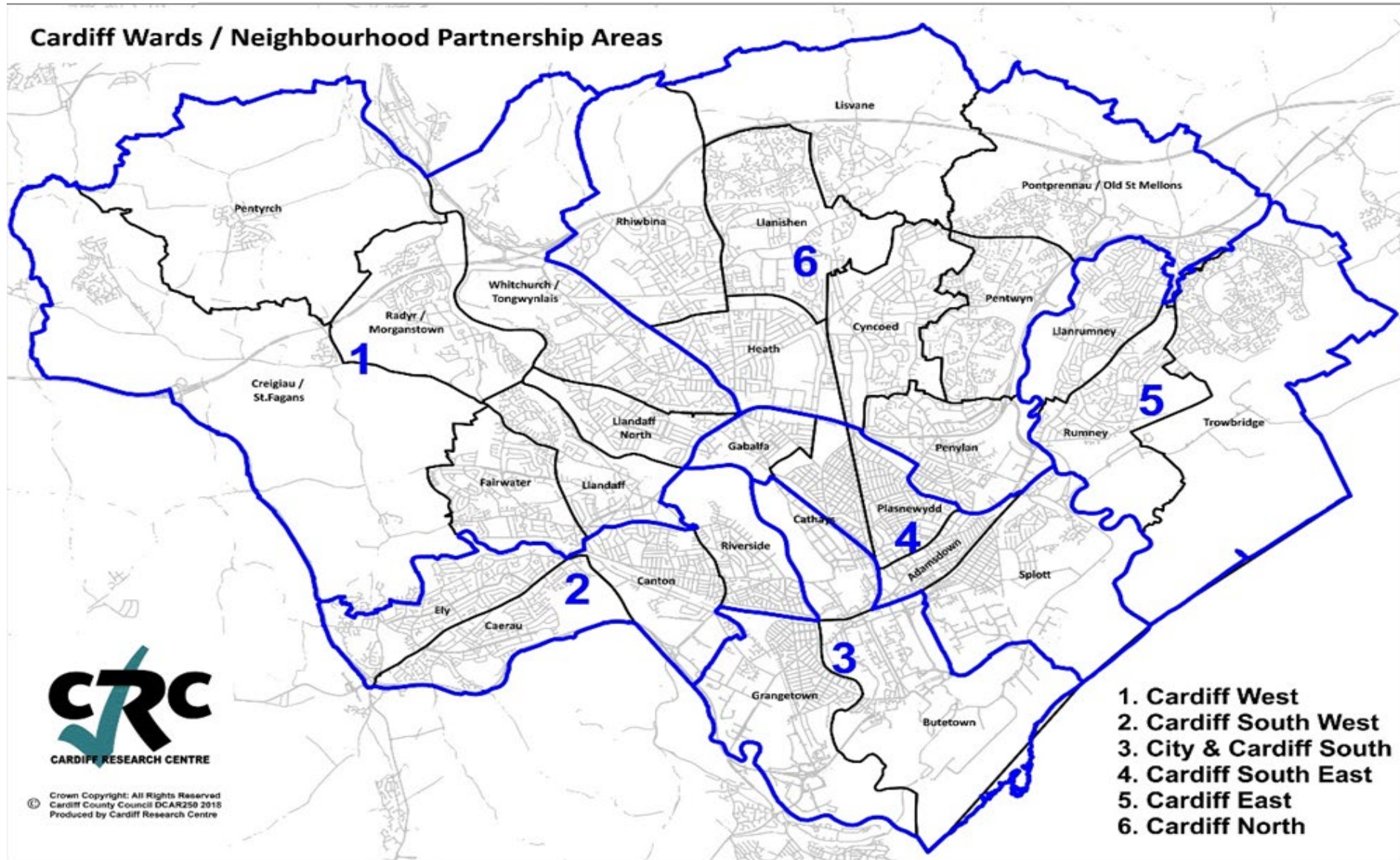
# Approach

- Most data relating to Cardiff's childcare provision, capacity & demand supplied by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- Data collected from childcare providers in an annual Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) & supplied to LAs in an anonymised format.
- Data also been sourced from:
  - ✓ Dewis Wales (<https://www.dewis.wales>)
  - ✓ Cardiff Research Centre
  - ✓ Cardiff's Education Directorate
  - ✓ From records held by the Council's Childcare Business Support Team
  - ✓ Welsh Government Parent survey. (**406** responses from Cardiff parents were received.)
- Data assessed based on Neighbourhood Planning Areas (NPA's)





# Neighbourhood Planning Areas



# Data Limitations

- Data relates to **432** childcare settings that were registered at the time :
  - of these, 30 settings were suspended,
  - 49 settings either did not or were not required to return their SASS data to CIW.
  - of the remaining, only **353** settings completed and returned their SASS data.
- Some data provided through the SASS was not fully accurate. Any identified errors have been highlighted in the draft CSA.



# Headline Findings

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- **Initial findings indicate that across Cardiff there is broadly sufficient childcare to meet the needs of parents so they can access work and/ or training.** However, data indicates;
  - some unmet demand in some localities, for specific childcare services & specific types of childcare provision.
  - further work required to promote financial support available to help pay for childcare,
  - further work required to ensure more sectors & settings are fully aware of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNet) & their responsibilities
  - concerns regarding recruitment & retention of qualified childcare staff across the city
  - concerns regarding the robustness of data supplied





## Gaps and areas for improvement

### Potential unmet demand by locality

- Lower levels of childcare provision in Cardiff East compared to Cardiff overall.
- Pockets of potential unmet demand for specific services in four other Neighbourhood Planning Areas (*Cardiff North, City and Cardiff South, Cardiff South West and Cardiff West*).

Further investigations required to confirm the level of unmet demand.

Actions could include:

- establishing the potential capacity of existing providers to meet the demand, or, if this is not possible,
- supporting the development of new provision whilst reducing the displacement impact on existing providers.

# Gaps and areas for improvement

## Potential unmet Welsh medium demand & the Welsh language

- data identifies that there is a potential unmet demand for Welsh medium childcare provision in the following areas.
- ✓ Welsh medium childcare (morning sessions) in Cardiff North.
- ✓ Full day care and Cylch Meithrin sessions in Cardiff West.
- ✓ After school care in City and Cardiff South, Cardiff South West and Cardiff West.

### **If confirmed,**

- opportunities available through Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 capital, linked to Cardiff Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to develop or expand Welsh medium childcare linked to Welsh medium primary schools.
- Welsh language taster courses designed for the childcare & early years workforce to be promoted to address low numbers of Welsh medium childminders & limited Welsh language skills of many childcare staff.



## Other Findings

- **Affordability** - key issue for many families who want or need to access childcare.
  - Cardiff Family Advice and Support (CFAS) key partners in increasing the awareness of parents & carers about financial assistance available to help with costs.
  - Scope to encourage more settings to sign up to provide Tax Free Childcare to assist working parents.
- **ALN** - Data indicates not all settings aware of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNet) & their responsibilities.
  - Childcare Business Support Team, with partners to promote how providers can access advice, support, guidance & training.

# Other Findings

- **Significant concerns across the sector regarding recruitment and retention of qualified childcare employees.**
  - ✓ There are opportunities for Early Help, the Councils' Into Work Service and the Cardiff Commitment to support the sector with the recruitment and training of childcare staff.
- **Further work needed to ensure the annual CSA updates, and future Assessments are informed by the most robust data possible.**
  - ✓ Opportunity to work with WG/CIW on a review of the Self-Assessment of Service Statement questions, which are sent to all providers. There were some instances where it was clear that data returned by providers was not accurate



# Next steps

- Cabinet approval for publication of the draft Childcare Sufficiency Statement on the Cardiff Council website for public consultation & delegated authority to the Director for Adults, Housing and Communities, to approve the final version of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment having taken into account the results of the consultation.
- Draft CSA to be translated
- Welsh and English versions of the draft CSA to be published on the Council's website for the statutory 28 day consultation period
- Statutory consultees\*, as set out in the legislation, to be provided with the draft document for comment
- Following the consultation, any amendments based on comments received to be made, as appropriate
- Detailed actions plans developed
- Translation of final version
- CSA submitted to Welsh Government (**by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**) & published on the Council's website

\* Regional Safeguarding Children Board; Welsh Education Forum; Play Monitoring Group (if established in the local authority area); Job Centre Plus



Thank you.

Are there any questions?