
CARDIFF CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2022-2027

Purpose of Report

1. For Members to receive a 12-month update on Childcare Sufficiency, which had been considered by this Scrutiny Committee in January 2022. A letter from the Chair was sent following this meeting and this briefing report updates Members on the issues and recommendations set out in **Appendix 1**.

Background

2. 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.
3. The term childcare refers to childcare providers, such as childminders, full day-care, afterschool clubs, sessional day-care; and home childcare providers (nannies).
4. Local Authorities must usually prepare and publish their local Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) at five yearly intervals.
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. A draft CSA was published on the Council's website for the statutory 28 day consultation period in May 2022.

9. A final version of the Cardiff 2022-2027 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to the Welsh Government on 30th of June 2022.

10. The Council is required to submit to the Welsh Government an annual progress report, reporting on progress against the identified actions. The next report is due to be submitted on 1st June 2023.

11. At a meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC), on the 19th of October 2022, members requested a 12-month update on progress against the committee's recommendations.

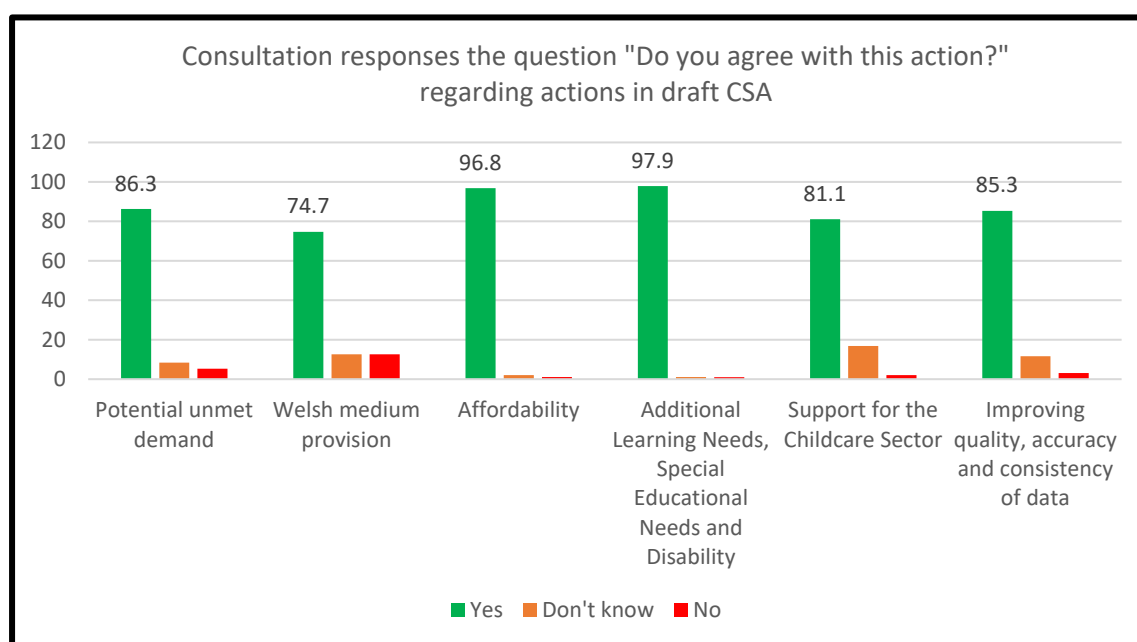
Consultation on the draft CSA

12. As part of the statutory consultation process, a bilingual online survey was developed in conjunction with Cardiff Research Centre. The survey was promoted via the Council's corporate Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts throughout the statutory consultation period.
13. Several face-to-face interviews were conducted during the consultation period in Cardiff libraries, hubs and Flying Start sessions.
14. The online survey was promoted to Council employees via DigiGov, the intranet and Staff Information.
15. The survey requested feedback regarding the proposed actions contained within the CSA, and the degree to which respondents agreed with these.
16. A total of 95 responses to the survey were received. The responses are shown in the tabular and graphical formats overleaf:

Table 1: Consultation responses to actions contained in the draft CSA

Proposed Action and response to question “Do you agree with this action?”	Yes %	Don't know %	No %
Potential unmet demand We will identify if demand exists, and support development of new childcare places or provision.	86.3	8.4	5.3
Welsh medium provision Develop or expand Welsh medium childcare linked to Welsh medium primary schools. We will promote the Welsh language taster courses designed for the childcare and early years workforce.	74.7	12.6	12.6
Affordability We will make the information needed by parents available on the Cardiff Family Advice and Support website and in a booklet for parents. Settings will be encouraged to sign up to provide Tax Free Childcare.	96.8	2.1	1.1
Additional Learning Needs, Special Educational Needs and Disability We will increase childcare providers' awareness and access to advice, support, guidance and training, in order to respond to the needs of children.	97.9	1.1	1
Support for the Childcare Sector We will work with the Councils' Into Work Service and the Cardiff Commitment where there are opportunities to contribute to supporting the sector.	81.1	16.8	2.1
Improving the quality, accuracy and consistency of data We will work with key partners to improve data accuracy	85.3	11.6	3.1

Graph 1: Consultation responses to actions in draft CSA



Cabinet decision

17. At the Cabinet meeting held on January 20th 2022, the Cabinet considered a report seeking Cabinet endorsement of the draft Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), to enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory responsibility to prepare and publish a local CSA by the 30th of June 2022.

18. Cabinet resolved that:

“Authority be delegated 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.”

<https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=6661&Ver=4>

19. A final Cardiff CSA was submitted to the Welsh Government on 30th June 2022. The Welsh Government intend to recruit a consultant to review and provide feedback to all local authorities on their CSA submissions.

Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee Recommendations

20. The table in appendix A, identifies actions taken, and progress to date, on the recommendations made by Cllr Lee Bridgeman as CYPSC Chair, in his letter dated 20th January 2022.