

Adroddiad Cynydd Digonolrwydd Chwarae: 2022/2023

Play Sufficiency: Progress Report 2022/2023



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Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Introduction

The Welsh Government wishes to create an environment in Wales where all children have the best opportunities to play and enjoy their recreation time. It believes that high quality play opportunities for all children may contribute to alleviating the negative effects of poverty on children's lives and help to build their resilience. The Welsh Government wants Wales to be a country where children are increasingly seen outside enjoying the benefits of play – a play friendly country which provides time, space and permission for all children to play.

To help achieve this change the Welsh Government passed the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which addresses the commitment to tackle child poverty. Importantly, this Measure covers play and participation.

Part of the Measure places a legal duty on every local authority in Wales to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area. As part of the Duty each Local Authority is required to undertake a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) every three years and develop an annual Action Plan. A well-conducted Play Sufficiency Assessment provides the evidence needed to identify gaps in provision and support the development of Action Plans to address these gaps.

For further information regarding the Play Sufficiency Assessment please follow the below links.

[Children and Families Wales Measure 2010](#)

[Creating a Play Friendly Wales – Statutory guidance for Local Authorities](#)

Click below for the Play Sufficiency Summary 2022

[Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022 - Summary](#)

Playworks Holiday Grant

In April 2022 we received £61,420 from Welsh Government as part of the Playworks Holiday Grant. The aim of the Playworks Holiday Project is to provide better play opportunities for children in vulnerable communities and to realise the benefits this brings in terms of child development and activity levels. We commissioned People Speak Up to facilitate bilingual inclusive street play sessions in Carmarthenshire, to engage with the local community and encourage families to create a positive family approach to play. As well as help reduce holiday hunger. The grant has allowed us to develop the project in areas that have been targeted as 'missing play' activities from the most recent Play Sufficiency Assessment.

People Speak Up utilised community settings to create positive change by using Pod Siarad/Speak Up pod for pop up events. They have identified volunteers to access training to support the project and be part of the legacy. The team have undertaken level 2 playwork training to enhance the play opportunities they can offer the community and provide healthy food / snacks during play sessions.

By the end of March 2023 Play sessions were held across 9 different locations with a total of 156 sessions throughout the year. 2,155 children attended the sessions, enjoying activities such as loose parts play, roasting fruit around the campfire, ball games, scooters and bikes and arts and crafts.

Street Play Promotional Video



'I think it (Street Play) has an amazing effect on the community, it gives children a safe space to play and just be kids, which is so healthy for their development and it definitely allows children to mix with kids they probably wouldn't have met elsewhere, and feel like they're more integrated in their communities.' - Parent

'I like to play with my friends, and I like to play hide & seek and tag. I love to spend time and play with them.' - Child

'Street Play makes me feel Happy. Excited!' - Child



'They're enjoying the outdoors a lot more, they're interacting with other children a lot more. They constantly want to be over playing, out, no matter what the weather is.' - Parent

Loose parts/waste management

Loose parts play is about having a variety of materials which can be moved around, carried, stacked, lined up and manoeuvred in multiple ways to enhance creativity when playing. Children should be allowed the freedom to move the equipment around to suit their play needs. Items such as crates, wooden logs, pallets, tyres, bricks are all loose parts. Loose parts play is fundamental to the playworker approach.

During a workshop focused on loose parts held by PlayWales it was acknowledged that play providers, schools and childcare settings were struggling with sourcing loose parts.

So, to enhance the play opportunities within these settings the Carmarthenshire play team approached the Waste Management Department and Cwm Environmental to see to if we could work together to identify and supply items that would normally go to landfill to be used as loose parts for children. Initial discussions have taken place and seem promising. This work will be further developed in 2023/2024.

Play Wales are keen to support this project and would like to feature Carmarthenshire as a case study area for the 'Resourcing play action research project'.

Waste management are also working with the education department to setup Nantycaws refuse site as an education facility for school aged children to come and visit and learn about recycling. We think this would be a great opportunity for cross departmental partnership working.

Playground warning signs

As a part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment questionnaires were completed by children and young people, parents, and carers as well as Town and Community Councils. From the responses 29% of children stated that they can't play where they want to because it isn't safe. 49% of parents and carers said that when it comes to allowing their children to play outside, they were concerned about road traffic and 62% of Town and Community Councils listed road traffic as their top barrier to play within their community.

An audit of the public playgrounds was also undertaken as part of the assessment and required us to identify whether there were playground warning signs on the roads surrounding the playground. Playground warning signs are signs that warn traffic to slow due to a playground being within their proximity.

The audits highlighted several parks didn't have any signs. Using the feedback from the questionnaires and information from the audits we identified the parks without any warning signs and used Geo-discover to locate the parks and shared this information with Traffic and Road Safety. They then ordered signs and posts which have already been delivered to the relevant highway's depots. Installations will be carried out over the next couple of months.

Park Mapping

One priority in our action plan is to help families find play spaces within their community. To achieve this, we have used the play space audit to update the locations of playgrounds, skate parks, and splashpads/pools which can be viewed by the public on the council website. We have shared the link to the map on the Family Information Service Website. We are also in the process of adding our playgrounds to The Great British Play Map. The Great British play map is a visual map of play areas across the country.

Play Funding Directory

To enable communities to easily find information about funding to support play, we have created a funding directory with a list of funders to consider when looking for grants for playgrounds/play spaces as well as places to get advice when looking for funding. It is located on the Family Information Service website and will be shared with relevant parties.

[Play Funding Directory](#)

Section 106 Funding

Section 106 funding can be used towards the upgrading and maintenance of open space/play provision. The play space audit highlighted areas that had worn out and broken equipment, these locations have been shared with the 106 officers to ascertain whether there is Section 106 funding available for developing play opportunities within these locations. There were a few wards which had money available, these were Hengoed, Llanybie, Llannon, Trelech and Burry Port. The 106 officers have informed the Town and Community Councils and offered the play teams support if they want to improve their play

areas. The play team is also in the process of working with the section 106 officers to develop a guide for Town and Community Councils to support them in understanding what section 106 funding is, how to apply for the funding and how it can be spent for play.

Quality Assurance Tool

A Quality Assurance Tool was developed to help support childcare and play settings to provide high quality rich play experiences to children. Both Play and Childcare Development Assistants acquired their Level 3 in Transition to Playwork during 2022 and this was fundamental in the planning and formation of the Quality Assurance Tool. Next steps include sharing the document with other counties to develop this further and then it will be piloted and implemented within Carmarthenshire during 2023.

Play Training

As part of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan it states the need for re-establishing unaccredited play training offer as part of the termly Training Programme and promote to schools/settings and communities across Carmarthenshire. During 2022 both Play and Childcare Development Assistants gained their Transition to Playwork Level 3 qualification and attended the Train the Trainer. This will now enable them to further develop unaccredited play training during 2023 with the intention to offer this to staff working in community settings and schools.

Food and Fun



Food and Fun is a school-based education programme funded by WLGA and is delivered by school staff and partners across 12 days during the school Summer holidays. It provides food and nutrition education, physical activity, enrichment sessions and healthy meals to children in areas of social deprivation. Schools must have 16% or greater free school

meal eligibility in order to take part.

Each school was allocated £10,000 to spend on all aspects of running the programme.

During 2022 the following schools took part:

Ysgol Pontyberem

Ysgol Penrhos

Ysgol Y Bedol

Ysgol Burryport

Food and Fun aims to improve school engagement and educational attainment, improved dietary behaviour, improved aspirations, improved mental health and emotional wellbeing and improve physical activity.

It was clear to see that during our Quality Assurance visits undertaken during Food and Fun that it was having a huge positive impact on children and provided them with experiences they would have been unable to experience without the Food and Fun programme. Staff spoke about how rewarding it was to watch children taste new foods, try new activities and visit places they had never been able to access before all within their local community.

Children shared that they were first unsure when trying new foods but by the end of the

programme they were feeling more confident and were now happier to try new foods. One child had tried football for the first time during Food and Fun and then went on to enrol to play for their local football club.

For some children the summer holidays are long and it is a challenge for them to re-engage into school. The Food and Fun programme helps to break down these barriers and make the transition back into school a lot easier. It also helps parents meet the costs of school holidays and improves parents health and well being.

Food and Fun will continue to run during 2023.

Please click on the link below to view a video that shares more information about Food and Fun:

['Food and Fun' Film - WLGA](#)

Summer of Fun



July 1st 2022 – September 30th 2022

The purpose of the Summer of Fun Welsh Government grant was to support the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-25.

It was also to ensure that no child was left behind as part of the recovery from the pandemic.

In total Carmarthenshire County Council was allocated £337,811.

Proposals were invited from key stakeholders from across the county both Local Authority and third sector. All proposals were required to show links to the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessment and details how the provision would address the gaps identified within the assessment.

The below table shows how the grant was allocated:

Area	Amount Allocated	Number of children benefitting	Age range
Statutory/Non-Statutory and Complex Needs	£158,104.92	899	0-25
Welsh Language	£11,828.40	489	0-25
Community Based Provision	£80,065.86	3,200	0-25
Culture and Leisure	£61,887.71	1,272	0-25

Statutory/Non-Statutory and Complex Needs

A total of £158,104.92 was allocated to providing free and accessible activities for children and young people with complex needs and within the statutory/non statutory service.

A range of activities and clubs were delivered across Carmarthenshire in children's residential homes Llys, Bleanau and Garreg Lwyd and also holiday provision in Carmarthen Breakthro, Dr Mz, Heol Goffa and Cywion Bach. Parents feedback included: *"They both loved it and cannot wait to attend any future clubs Very friendly yet professional. Staff very approachable etc. They all appeared to work well as a team. My youngest in particular hasn't stopped talking about the fun he had and can't wait for more clubs"*.



Welsh Language

A total of £11,828.40 was allocated to the Mentrau Iaith and Yr Atom to ensure that children and young people living in Carmarthenshire had access to free and accessible Welsh language provision.

Activities included workshops, nature clubs, pirate shows, buggy walks, messy play and various trips that included visits to Llandysul Paddlers, Swim Centre Carmarthen and Afan Argoed.

Participant feedback included: *"Fantastic to have opportunities to attend Welsh medium activities, play with other children, events in rural areas all for free"*



Community Based Provision

A total of £80,065.86 was allocated to the provision of accessible and free community-based play provision.

Family Centres across Carmarthenshire arranged trips to the beach, Pembrey Country Park, Dinosaur Park and Folly Farm. They also offered fairy workshops, messy play, held parties to celebrate National Playday.

Children's feedback included: *"I love the dinosaur park, it was nice to play with other children, I don't have a brother to play with"* (Child, aged 6)

Clwb Bach Ni based in the rural community of Cynwyl Gaeo planned lots of events from family days, water party, uv disco, messy play and science and slime fun.



Dr Mz arranged an extensive range of workshops that included dungeons and dragons, healthy eating, drama, art and crafts. Trips were also arranged to the cinema, ninja warrior, Poppit Sands and Manor Park.

Early Years Integration Team arranged a roadshow of activities to take place across the Gwendraeth Valley where all children were offered to attend but was specifically aimed at inviting children with additional needs.

Llanelli Town Council worked in collaboration with People Speak Up and delivered street play sessions in parks within Llanelli.



Also the youth service arranged that youth club provision was maintained over the summer holidays and provided a variety of experiences such as sports, outdoor activities, arts and craft and cooking activities.

Culture and Leisure

A total of £61,887.71 was allocated to Actif Sir Gar to provide a variety of cultural and leisure opportunities for children and young people living in Carmarthenshire.

Activities included dodgeball, gym sessions, fitness classes, kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming.



The Summer of Fun benefitted approximately 5,782 children and young people aged between 0 and 25 years which helped them to recover from the impact of the covid pandemic.

Conclusion

The play report has highlighted many good practice examples of how children's play opportunities are being addressed across the county. During 2023/2024 we will continue to collaborate with schools, across Local Authority departments and with our third sector partners and communities as we strive to ensure that children and young people's rights to play are being met.