

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 12 th July 2022
Report Subject	Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire County Council and its partners are committed to ensuring that all children and young people resident in the county have access to time, space and permission to play as part of their everyday lives which benefits families and their communities. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that children living in Flintshire have a 'right to play' as enshrined within Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Flintshire County Council recognises that play is central to children and young people's enjoyment of life and is essential to their physical and emotional well-being and their healthy development. We recognise that some aspects of our modern society can limit children's time, space and permission to play. The Council is committed to the continuation of creating effective partnerships to enable play sufficiency.

Our aim is to help to create rich play environments where children can freely play and encourage our communities to be as play-friendly as possible to support children's play. By increasing opportunities for play within local communities, we will enhance children's and young people's experience of growing-up in Flintshire.

The Council has a statutory duty under the Children and Families Measure (Wales) to report to Welsh Government with regard to the Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022. The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Council has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.

This report provides an overview of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process, the development of a Play Sufficiency Action Plan and the draft Assessment for 22-23

to receive comments from the Committee prior to submission of the completed assessment to Welsh Government by 30th June 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members are asked to consider the content of the draft Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) 2022 and draft Action Plan 2022/2023 and offer any comments for inclusion in the final documents prior to submission to Welsh Government.
2	Members are asked to support the continued development of a strategic Flintshire Play Sufficiency Implementation Group to provide a multi-agency forum to monitor the PSA Action Plan 2022/2023.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
1.01	<p>The Council has a statutory duty under the Children and Families Measure (Wales) to report to Welsh Government with regard to the Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022.</p> <p>A Play Sufficiency Assessment will enable the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation • Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency • Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working • The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding • A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals • The identification of good practice examples • Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities • The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment. <p>The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Council has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.</p>
1.02	<i>Wales – A Play Friendly Country</i> , sets out the statutory guidance to local authorities, identifying a wide range of matters across several policy areas that need to be considered as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

These include:

- Matter A: Population
- Matter B: Providing for diverse needs
- Matter C: Space available for children to play
- Matter D: Supervised provision
- Matter E: Charges for play provision
- Matter F: Access to space/provision [*this includes travel access, as well as information and publicity*]
- Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce
- Matter H: Community engagement and participation
- Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas [*Education/schools, Town and Country Planning, Traffic and transport, Health and Wellbeing, Child Poverty, Early years/Childcare and Family policy and initiatives, Community Development, Inter-generational policy and initiatives, Community Safety, Health and Safety*]

The Play Sufficiency Assessment includes commentary against these matters in the standard template provided by Welsh Government and requires a RAG rating to be applied. Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

Criteria fully met.	Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Partially met
Criteria not met.	Not met

Much of the evidence provided in the assessment supports several of the matters that require reporting on so will be repeated in each relevant section.

1.03 The Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022 aims to promote inclusion and improve access to play opportunities for all children in the county including those most marginalised, segregated, and disabled. It is recognised that if given the opportunity all children will play, irrespective of their age, ability, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, social standing, religion or gender.

1.04 Play deprivation is defined as a deprivation of experience which can impact on all children. The impact of play deprivation can impact on children and young people’s health and well-being, their self-esteem and self-confidence. Play deprivation can also impact on developing essential social skills vital to developing healthy and progressive communities.

1.05 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major and unprecedented impact on the lives of children, young people, families and communities across the county.

The ongoing delivery of play services by the Council and its partners during this time is evidenced as providing an essential aid to aid recovery from the physical and emotional impacts of the pandemic, particularly

	where extended lockdowns severely restricted social, physical and educational activities and interaction.
1.06	The Council has reviewed and assessed all its play action plans since the baseline audit undertaken for the Play Sufficiency Assessment in 2013 and subsequent Play Sufficiency Assessments undertaken during a three-year cycle including 2016 and 2019. This review and assessment process has formed the basis for the Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022 and the requirement for annual action planning thereafter.
1.07	The overall rating of the Flintshire Play Sufficiency Report for 2022 is AMBER – there are many positive outcomes evidenced for children and young people and effective partnership working between services and external partners. Available resources within the Council and grant funding are used effectively. However, there is always more that can be done to improve the play experiences of children and young people.
1.08	The development of a Flintshire Play Sufficiency Implementation group, which will be a multi-agency group, will enable the Council to meet its statutory obligation to monitor and evaluate the Play Action Plan 2022/2023.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>All of the actions identified with within the Play Sufficiency Action Plan time will be funded via the Welsh Government All Wales Play Opportunities Fund and via other grant awarding bodies .e.g. Town and Community Councils.</p> <p>The Play Development Officer post is a substantive post within the structure of the Integrated Youth Provision and funded by the core budget for the Education and Youth Portfolio so there are no additional implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years. There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p> <p>Welsh Government have made grant funding available through the Summer of Fun 2022 programme which will also support the delivery of quality play provision for children and young people in Flintshire and contribute to the delivery of the PSA Sufficiency Action Plan.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Not specifically required for this report.</p> <p>Risks are monitored via the Education & Youth Portfolio Risk Register</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Play Sufficiency Document attached as an appendix outlines the wide ranging consultation with children, young people, schools, council services and other key partners e.g. Town & Community Councils, to inform the development of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022 Appendix 2 – Play Review and Investment Plan

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Play Sufficiency Assessments and Action Plans – Welsh Government have provided the local authority with statutory guidance July 2014. https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/wales-a-play-friendly-country.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Janet Roberts - Play Development Officer E-mail: janet.roberts2@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.