

Meeting of:	<b>Community Liaison Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 07 April 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Play Sufficiency Assessment
Purpose of Report:	To seek input from Town and Community Councils into the Play Sufficiency Assessment process.
Report Owner:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Karen Davies – Principal Healthy Living Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Elected Members and Town and Community Councillors on the Community Liaison Committee
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for consideration by the Community Liaison Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This report seeks to raise awareness of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process which is undertaken as part of the Local Authorities duties as set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, which places a duty on Local Authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area (where reasonably practical).</li> <li>• Town and Community Councils can make positive contributions to the Play Sufficiency process as they have a range of knowledge about their areas, are a voice for their residents and are well placed to be play champions for the communities they serve.</li> <li>• A 'Play in the Community' survey has been sent to all Town and Community Councillors to obtain initial input into this process.</li> <li>• A one-hour PSA workshop aimed at Town and Community Councillors has been provisionally booked for 29<sup>th</sup> April (timing of this workshop can be agreed). This will be facilitated by Play Wales and seeks to provide an overview of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and to highlight ways in which Town and Community Councils can contribute to assessing and securing play sufficiency in their communities.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. T H A T all Town and Community Council Representatives on the Community Liaison Committee be requested to liaise with their respective Clerk to complete the Play in Your Community survey on behalf of their respective council (if not already), as originally shared on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
2. T H A T all Town and Community Council Representatives on the Community Liaison Committee be requested to nominate a representative from their respective council, to attend the Play Sufficiency workshop schedule for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, by emailing [kidavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:kidavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk), by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. By way of a reminder to ensure that Town and Community Councils represent their communities by inputting into the Play Sufficiency process, contributing to the duty set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which places a duty on Local Authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.
2. To ensure that each of the 26 Town and Community Councils within the Vale of Glamorgan are represented at the Play Sufficiency Workshop to further share information regarding the Play Sufficiency and to highlight ways in which Town and Community Councils can support children and young people to play in their communities.

## **1. Background**

1. The Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. Their aim is to create a play friendly Wales, creating an environment where children have positive opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time. To achieve this, they have placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area, as far as reasonably practicable and in accordance with Welsh Government regulations. For children to have sufficient opportunities to play, they need time and space to play and the recognition by adults that this is every child's right.
2. The Play Sufficiency Duty comes as part of the Welsh Government's anti-poverty agenda which recognises that children can have a poverty of experience, opportunity, and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural, and economic backgrounds across Wales. The duty was set out by Welsh Government in Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
3. As part of this duty the Local Authority must:
  - complete the assessment document
  - produce an accompanying action plan
  - produce an Executive Summary providing an overview of the process and the

- outcome, which is accessible to the public
- publish information about play opportunities in the area

In meeting this duty, the Council must have regard (amongst other things) for the needs of children and young people of different ages, impact of rurality, Welsh language provision, needs of disabled children and other protected characteristics.

4. The Duty requires professionals across a range of sectors to work together, both to gather information against the criteria in the template for the Play Sufficiency Assessments and to draw up and implement action plans. The breadth of Matters which are assessed means that people working across all professional domains need to be involved at either strategic or frontline delivery level, and therefore, play sufficiency is everyone's business. Town and Community Councils can be an important part of this as they have strong roots in their communities. Councillors are often well known to residents, have a range of knowledge about their areas and are well placed to be play champions for the communities they serve. The voice of our residents are central to progressing play sufficiency, Town and Community Councils are well placed to engage with and represent the views of their residents.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 Play Wales are supporting Local Authorities with the Play Sufficiency Assessment process. They have offered to deliver a one-hour awareness raising session aimed at Town and Community Councillors to provide further information regarding the Play Sufficiency and to highlight ways in which they can support children and young people to play in their communities. Ideally all Town and Community Councils would enrol a representative to attend this session, which can be delivered as an online session. To ensure highest attendance, feedback is required from the Councillors in relation to the timing of the session – either a daytime or evening session on proposed date of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- 2.2 The 'Play in Your Community' survey seeks to find out more about localised play opportunities in the Vale communities – finding out what is positive and also challenging about opportunities for children, young people and families to play in their communities. By supporting better play opportunities for children and communities, we can help realise the benefits this brings in terms of areas such as positive well-being amongst children, young people and families, child development, building resilience, family and community cohesion, and community engagement.
- 2.3 Town and Community Council input is sought with this piece of work. The information will help inform the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessment, identifying positive examples of play sufficiency whilst also identifying any shortfalls and challenges, and potential actions that may help overcome these shortfalls and challenges. Whilst financial resources are scarce, previous assessments have highlighted that some improvements can be made without the need for large financial inputs, sometimes it can be as simple as raising awareness of the incredible spaces we have across the Vale which can support play or organisations working together to share resources and knowledge.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute**

- 3.1** Throughout the Play Sufficiency Assessment process, consideration has been given to the five ways of working. Partnership working is an essential element required to not only complete the Assessment process but also to successfully implement the identified actions. The Assessment document will acknowledge that the development and provision of play opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan requires input from a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations and is not the sole responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- 3.2** In the previous Play Sufficiency Assessments it was acknowledged that an integrated multi agency approach to the development of play services in the Vale of Glamorgan was the only way in which a service could be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which play opportunities are developed.
- 3.3** Play development work is a significant contributor to the Wellbeing Outcome of 'An Active and Healthy Vale', particularly to the objective of 'encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles'. However, play is a cross-cutting activity that can impact across all of the well-being goals including tackling inequalities and enabling people to participate and contribute to their local communities. In delivering the actions identified in the Play Action Plan the Council will also be contributing to the national well-being goals, in particular 'a healthier Wales'.
- 3.4** The acknowledgement of the value of play by both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and their partners is emphasised by the inclusion of play within key local documents such as the Council's Corporate Plan and the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board's Wellbeing Plan. Work to deliver play opportunities is being progressed through a number of different policy agendas via these documents and through inclusion in other corporate documents including the Council's Leisure Strategy.
- 3.5** Play development work is a significant contributor to Wellbeing Outcomes. It is particularly relevant to Wellbeing Outcome 3: Giving Everyone a Good Start in Life and Outcome 4: Supporting and Protecting those who need us. However, play development is cross cutting and can impact across other well-being goals including Objectives 2 and 5. In delivering the actions identified in the Play Action Plan the Local Authority are also contributing to the national well-being goals, in particular 'a Healthier Wales'.
- 3.6** Throughout the play planning and delivery process consideration is given to the five ways of working. Partnership working is an essential element to identify priority areas for development, to share resources and expertise and to successfully implement the identified actions.
- 3.7** Participation in play has known long term preventative health and wellbeing benefits and the inclusion of play in key corporate and partnership plans highlight this contribution.

- 3.8** An integrated multi partnership approach to the development of play services in the Vale of Glamorgan is the only way in which a service can be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which play opportunities are being developed.
- 3.9** The ethos of play ensures that equality themes are consistently taken into account. The input of Town and Community Councils will help with the identification of priority areas to progress, which needs to be underpinned by insight, consultation, and engagement, with project development supported by a collaborative approach.
- 3.10** Play developments contribute to Council’s vision, providing a preventative approach to support health and wellbeing of residents. There is a need for a collaborative approach with community engagement and participation a central focus, empowering residents to help shape and engage with vibrant, community spaces and play opportunities.

#### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

The Play Development team place a great deal of emphasis on ensuring the services offered are sustainable, do not impact on the environment and do not contribute to climate change. Examples include re-purposing waste for play purposes during provision and encouraging/educating families to do the same; and encouraging localised play to take away the need to travel.

#### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

##### **Financial**

- 5.1** The proposed workshop delivered by Play Wales will be provided free of charge as Play Wales have committed their time without cost for this purpose as they appreciate the importance of the Play Sufficiency process.

##### **Employment**

- 5.2** There are no direct employment implications associated with the Strategy.

##### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** There is a duty placed on the Local Authority by the Welsh Government to undertake the Play Sufficiency Assessment process via the Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.

## **6. Background Papers**

N/A