

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	HEd/13/18
<b>DATE:</b>	12 June 2017
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Andrew Atkinson (People – Youth Services and Anti-Poverty)
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Donna Dickenson, Service Manager (01978 295495)
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Play Pledge and Play Sufficiency Partnership
<b>WARD:</b>	All

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek endorsement of the Wrexham Play Pledge (Appendix 1) and the subsequent development of a Play Sufficiency Partnership (Appendix 3) to oversee the Local Authority's work in respect of the Play Sufficiency Duty.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In April 2016 the Safeguarding, Communities & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee requested that the proposal to endorse a 'Play Pledge' (as a low cost means of ensuring greater consideration of children's access to time and space for play across Local Authority departments) be revisited, redeveloped and endorsed by the Local Authority.
- 2.2 The Lead Member for Youth Services & Anti-Poverty, the Local Authority's Strategic Management Team and the Safeguarding, Communities & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee have now all endorsed a revised Play Pledge and are seeking endorsement from the Local Authority's Executive Board.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **Members of the Executive Board consider the attached documents and endorse and sign the Play Pledge for Wrexham and support the development of a Play Sufficiency Partnership that will work to identify barriers to children**

**accessing time and space for play and provide oversight of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan.**

- 3.2 Members of the Executive Board support Heads of Department to identify relevant officers to be involved in the partnership to ensure that knowledge, skills and resources are coordinated in support of play.**

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) At a time of reducing investment in play provision, the Play Pledge would help to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to protecting and improving children's time, space and permission for play within the public realm and other Local Authority run services. In doing so the agreement would enable the Local Authority to demonstrate its commitment to the Play Sufficiency Duty by establishing cross departmental and organisational support for children's play at no additional cost to the authority.
- (ii) Whilst the Play Development Team will continue to provide the driving force, maintaining momentum and coordinating cross-departmental activities in support of children's play, this approach will help ensure that the work of each relevant department/organisation is represented on the Play Sufficiency Partnership. This process would also formalise existing links between the Play Development Team and other departments/organisations and would enable new links to be formed with those partners not yet involved.
- (iii) The intention is that this partnership meets as regularly as capacity realistically allows to review progress against the play sufficiency action plans and discuss particular challenges associated with improving children's opportunities for play (more frequent meetings may be required when completing the actual play sufficiency assessments). In between these times actions would be progressed via ongoing email and telephone communication between individuals, and by smaller working groups if necessary. An appropriate level chair should also be identified to ensure ongoing full council commitment to the Play Sufficiency Duty and reports made to the Public Service Board on progress made.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children. Both the Welsh Government's play sufficiency guidance and Wrexham's own play sufficiency assessments are clear that securing sufficient play opportunities for children is not just about designated provision but is also dependant on our ability to cultivate the temporal, spatial and psychological conditions needed for children to play. This in turn highlights the need for changes to be made across national and local government, within local community practices and adult run institutions, and within people's own homes to create an environment that is more supportive and considerate of children's innate playful behaviour.
- 4.2 The Local Authority's Executive Board endorsed the priorities and associated actions from Wrexham's second Play Sufficiency Assessment on 10 May 2016. The latest assessment continues the Local Authority's principled approach to assessing and securing sufficient opportunities for children's play. In doing so it reaffirmed and

further developed the 12 priorities identified through the Wrexham's first PSA in 2013. It then went on to describe a number of key systems that need to be in place to enable the Local Authority and its partners to work towards securing sufficient opportunities for children's play across the county borough; this included the need for improved:

- **Planning for Play** – embedding consideration of the ways in which children use and move through space into planning processes and making greater efforts to avoid inadvertently removing or constraining access to features that currently support children's play;
- **Policies for Play** – developing more child-centred policies that work with and in support of children's innate playfulness and pay greater attention to the potential impacts of different policy initiatives on children's ability to find time and space for play;
- **Partnerships for Play** – bringing people together to further develop their 'collective wisdom' as to how adults might better embed consideration of children's ability to find time and space for playing (with and without adults) into their own and other people's everyday practices.

- 4.3 The proposed Play Pledge has been discussed with Heads of Department who have provided advice and guidance on how the Pledge can be utilised to create advocates for Play across Council Departments.
- 4.4 The previous Lead Member for Youth Services & Anti-Poverty also presented a report to the Safeguarding, Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2018 seeking their comments and recommendations on the revised Play Pledge and proposals for establishing a Play Sufficiency Partnership (see section 8 for further details).
- 4.5 Securing sufficient opportunities for play will require the involvement of partners from across childcare, community safety, economic development, education, environmental services, health, housing, planning, playwork, social care, transport and youth work. The draft terms of reference for the proposed partnership (included in Appendix 2) provides a possible list of partners, however these will be reviewed once the partnership has been formed within the Local Authority and invitations then be made to other partner agencies as deemed necessary by members of the group.
- 4.6 The Play Sufficiency Duty as a whole and the specific proposals made above are very much in line with the aspirations and objectives of Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The Play Pledge is a prime example of an initiative based on the principle of sustainable development; encouraging greater collaboration between partners to improve conditions for play, thereby enabling more children to support their own health and wellbeing and in turn helping to prevent problems emerging in the future. The Play Pledge could therefore be part of a more sustainable approach to providing opportunities for play long into the future.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Policy Framework**

The proposed Play Pledge reflects and contributes towards a number of Council objectives including Pe1 – supporting people to have positive aspirations, learn and achieve their potential. It also enables the Local Authority to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring that the statutory requirement to assess play sufficiency is fulfilled and an action plan created. There are a range of related policies that support Wales' approach to Play including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2015 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

### **5.2 Budget**

The Play Pledge is not reliant on additional funding, therefore there are no budget implications associated with this report.

### **5.3 Legal**

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to complete a Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years and produce an annual action plan based on its findings, which should then inform the steps it might take to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as reasonably practicable.

### **5.4 Staffing**

There are currently no staffing implications associated with the Play Sufficiency Action Plan.

### **5.5 Equality/Human Rights**

Members are advised of their duty to consider the full Equality Impact Assessment which is available at <http://vmwinsql/equalityisalive/Menu.aspx> report number [EIA00033/2015]. Members of the public can request a copy of the full Equality Impact Assessment from the Contact Officer named in the header box of this report. Additional assessments in relation to Communities First and Families First have also been completed.

A summary of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 4.

### **5.6 Risks**

The first part of the Play Sufficiency Duty under section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas. The second part places a duty on Local Authorities to *secure* sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to their assessments. As a consequence, if the Executive Board does not approve the Play Sufficiency Action Plan, the Local Authority may fail to meet its statutory duty.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Since the first Play Sufficiency Assessment in 2013, eight local and national research studies have been carried out which closely relate to the play sufficiency agenda in Wrexham. In addition more than 1450 people were involved in the 2016 assessment, and as a consequence Wrexham has robust evidence on which to base its approach. This included surveying the majority of children in year five across the county with the intention of identifying those communities where children report the lowest levels of satisfaction with their opportunities for play.

## **7. EVALUATION OF OPTIONS**

- 7.1 The Play Pledge does not require an options appraisal at this stage.

## **8. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

- 8.1 The previous Lead Member for People – Youth Services and Anti-Poverty submitted a report (HEd/04/18) to the Safeguarding Communities & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (SCWSC) on 17 January 2018 enabling Members to consider revised proposals for the endorsement of a Play Pledge and the subsequent development of a Play Sufficiency Partnership to oversee the Local Authority's work in respect of the Play Sufficiency Duty.

Members considered the report and raised the following matters in particular:

- The Play Pledge would ensure that Play was a central consideration in the development of all Council policies. With reference to the last bullet point, some Members queried the revised wording 'where capacity and resources allow' and sought assurance that there will be an ongoing commitment from all Local Authority departments to the Play Pledge and Play Sufficiency Partnership.
- A Member commented that the revised Play Pledge did not contain any reference to protecting public open / green space for children's play. The Scrutiny Facilitator commented that this Scrutiny Committee had previously recommended that the Planning Policy Panel 'pays particular attention to the deficit of public open space in many areas and the impact of this in providing play sufficiency for the future' when considering the emerging Local Development Plan and this recommendation had been accepted (Minute Ref 74 2016 Resolution (v)). Members requested that the Committee's support for play and the need to retain public open space be reiterated to the Planning Policy Panel.

The Committee then agreed:

- (i) That the Lead Member for Youth Services and Anti-Poverty submit his recommendations in relation to the Play Pledge to the Executive Board by June 2018.
- (ii) That the Lead Member for Youth Services and Anti-Poverty presents Wrexham's next Play Sufficiency Assessment and associated Action Plan due to be completed by April 2019 to this Scrutiny Committee prior to its

consideration by the Executive Board, and that the report includes an update on the Play Pledge and the membership and work of the Play Sufficiency Partnership.

- (iii) That the Scrutiny Committee reiterates its April 2016 recommendation to the Planning Policy Panel that it pays particular attention to Matter C in the Play Sufficiency Action Plan – ‘Ensure that the Play Sufficiency Duty and findings from Wrexham’s Play Sufficiency Assessments inform the new Local Development Plan and any subsequent supplementary planning guidance and pays particular attention to the deficit of public open space in many areas and the impact of this in providing play sufficiency for the future’.

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WEBSITE INFO.</b>
Wrexham Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 (abridged)	Members’ Library	<a href="http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/play/play_sufficiency_2016.pdf">http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/play/play_sufficiency_2016.pdf</a>
Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their area	Members’ Library	<a href="http://www.playwales.org.uk/login/uploaded/documents/Play%20sufficiency/Wales%20a%20play%20friendly%20country.pdf">http://www.playwales.org.uk/login/uploaded/documents/Play%20sufficiency/Wales%20a%20play%20friendly%20country.pdf</a>

## Wrexham Play Pledge

On behalf of the Local Authority and the departments I am responsible for, I confirm the following:

- We are committed to upholding children's right to play as recognised by Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and further emphasised in the UNCRC's General Comment 17 (2013).
- We recognise that children display a playful disposition to their environments and that play is central to children's wellbeing and development both now and in the future.
- We understand that children, as part of their daily lives, need access to time and space for play free from unnecessary adult imposed obligations.
- We value the role of play provision; however we also recognise that children's play should not be confined to adult designated areas and should instead be expected and supported throughout the wider public realm.
- We recognise that as adults we must avoid placing unnecessary restrictions on children's time and space for play and should instead contribute to cultivating the conditions which enable play to occur.
- We are committed to considering how our work may impact upon children's ability to access time, space and permission for play and will endeavour to identify and address any unnecessary restrictions that may result from this.
- We will support the Local Authority in meeting its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Welsh Government's Play Sufficiency Duty by working with other departments and partner agencies to help secure sufficient play opportunities for children and young people across the county borough, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- I will ensure that individuals, from relevant departments/organisations for which I am responsible for, who want to be involved in Wrexham's Play Sufficiency Partnership are supported to do so where capacity and resources allow.

Signed:

Print name:

Position:

Date:

## **Play Sufficiency Partnership - Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose:**

The Play Sufficiency Partnership aims to uphold children's right to play by working to secure sufficient play opportunities for children and young people across Wrexham county borough, therefore enabling the Local Authority to meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Welsh Government's Play Sufficiency Duty.

In doing this, the Play Sufficiency Partnership will focus on the following 12 priorities identified through the Wrexham's second Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) and subsequently endorsed by the Local Authority's Executive Board in May 2016:

- Priority 1: Increase object play-time during term-time
- Priority 2: Enhance opportunities for playing in Winter
- Priority 3: Secure safer streets for play
- Priority 4: Secure a wider range of spaces for play
- Priority 5: Secure spaces for play in close proximity to children's homes
- Priority 6: Secure and maintain quality play provision
- Priority 7: Secure a greater range of provision for teenagers
- Priority 8: Improve children's subjective experience of time & space in supervised provision
- Priority 9: Enable parents to identify ways in which they can support children's play
- Priority 10: Improve support for disabled and marginalised children
- Priority 11: Improve generalised negative attitudes towards teenagers and their play
- Priority 12: Ensure children have easy access to friends

### **Objectives:**

- Promote awareness of children's right to play and Play Sufficiency Duty throughout the Local Authority and its partner agencies.
- Encourage consideration of children's ability to access time, space and permission for play in the planning and delivery of local services and facilities.
- Identify unnecessary restrictions on children's time and space for play and take action to reduced or remove these where possible.
- Consider the potential impacts of work associated with the Play Sufficiency Duty on that of other Local Authority departments and partner agencies.
- Support the Local Authority in completing subsequent play sufficiency assessments in line with the Welsh Government's statutory guidance.
- Redevelop the play sufficiency action plan on an annual basis in line with priorities identified through the play sufficiency assessments.
- Review progress on the implementation of the play sufficiency action plan every six months.
- Improve recognition of children's right to play within other local policies and strategies.

## **Format:**

The partnership will meet on a quarterly basis to review progress against the play sufficiency action plan and discuss particular challenges associated with improving children's opportunities for play (although more frequent meetings may be required when completing the actual play sufficiency assessments). In between these times actions will be progressed via ongoing email and telephone communication between individuals, and by smaller working groups if necessary.

## **Membership:**

The WCBC Play Development Team provides the driving force behind the Local Authority's work in respect of the Play Sufficiency Duty, maintaining momentum and coordinating cross-departmental activities in support of children's play. However the Play Sufficiency Partnership aims to ensure there is a named point of contact within each relevant Local Authority department or partner agency whose work directly or indirectly impacts upon children's ability to access time, space and permission for play as an essential part of their everyday lives. An appropriate level chair will be identified from the members to ensure ongoing full council commitment to the Play Sufficiency Duty.

The Play Sufficiency Partnership would ideally include members representing the following departments / partner agencies / areas of work (an individual member may represent more than one area of work):

Arts Department	Glyndwr University
AVOW	Health & Safety
Assessment & Intervention Team	Healthy Schools
Child Health & Disability	Housing
Childcare Sufficiency	ITeC
CAHMS	North Wales Police
Coleg Cambria	Parks, Countryside & Rights of Way
Community Diversity	Performance, Improvement & Partnerships
Community Safety	Planning Policy
Corporate Communications / Events	Play Development Team
Disability Team	Playwork (Third Sector)
Disabled Children's Services (Third Sector)	Primary & Secondary Education
Early Years / Childcare (Third Sector)	Public Health Wales
Economic Development / Communities First	Road Safety
Education Psychology	School Improvement
Families First	Sports Development
Family Centres	Street Scene
Family Information Service	Together Achieving Change
Integrated Family Support Service	Traffic & Transport
Flying Start	Youth Work
Fostering / Looked After Children	Youth Justice
Funded Early Education / Foundation Phase	Workforce Development

## **Play Sufficiency Partnership – Member’s Roles & Responsibilities**

- To represent the interests of your department / organisation in discussions about children’s play and the Play Sufficiency Duty.
- To advise the Play Sufficiency Partnership on issues related to your departments / organisation’s remit.
- To promote awareness of children’s right to play and the Play Sufficiency Duty within your department / organisation.
- To share relevant information about the Local Authority’s work in relation to the Play Sufficiency Duty with other members of your department / organisation.
- To encourage consideration of children’s ability to access time, space and permission for play in the planning and delivery of your department’s / organisation’s services and/or facilities.
- To support the local authority in completing subsequent play sufficiency assessments in line with the Welsh Government’s statutory guidance.
- To work with other members of the Play Sufficiency Partnership to develop and monitor the implementation of action plans aimed at addressing priorities identified through the play sufficiency assessments.
- To contribute towards the completion of actions within the play sufficiency action plans which relate to your department’s / organisation’s remit.
- To ensure members of the Play Sufficiency Partnership are made aware of relevant consultations and policy developments associated with the work of your department / organisation, which may impact on children’s ability to access sufficient time, space and permission for play.

Department Ref: LL/EIA00033/2015

Responsible  
Officer:

Job Title:

Assessment Owner: Mike Barclay

Job Title: Play Development Coordinator

eMail Address: mike.barclay@wrexham.gov.uk

Created By: Mike Barclay

Created Date: 15 Oct 2015

Last Modified By: Donna Dickenson

Last Modified Date: 21 May 2018

Completed By:

Completed Date:

## Rationale

### Why is it being considered?

The local authority has a statutory duty to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of opportunities for children's play and based on that assessment take action to secure sufficient opportunities so far as is reasonably practicable.

### What need is being addressed?

Children and young people's need to access time and space for freely chosen and personally directed play as part of their everyday lives. In order to support this, the council will consider signing up to a Play Pledge that will ensure that it is doing everything practicably reasonable but identifying any activities within Departments that might impact negatively or positively on children's access to play opportunities.

## Aim

### What is the intended outcome of the proposal / policy?

To cultivate more favourable conditions for children's freely chosen, personally directed play across the county borough.

## How

### How will it be delivered, by whom and by when?

The play sufficiency assessment and subsequent action plan must be completed and submitted to Welsh Government by the end of March 2016. The Play Development Team will be leading on this work but a 'play sufficiency partnership' is also being developed to ensure all departments / partner agencies that impact upon children's time and space for play are involved in helping the local authority to meet its responsibilities under this statutory duty. This includes agreeing a Play Pledge, which will be considered at the June 18 Executive Board.

The action plan for 17/18 is now due and requires the approval of the Executive Board, to be considered in September 2017.

## Who

### Who are the people likely to be affected by this proposal or policy?

All children have a right to play as recognised by Article 31 of the UNCRC. However because playing is central to children's experience of living anyone can potentially impact on or be impacted upon by children's play behaviour. As a consequence people of all ages are likely to be affected, including the elderly. Whilst all children can potentially experience barriers to accessing time and space for play there are some who may face extra-ordinary challenges due to being disabled, their gender, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic background. This may be due to the physical or emotional support they require, their ability to access provision or concerns about how they will be perceived by others.

### How have you consulted with the people who are likely to be affected?

Wrexham's first play sufficiency assessment in 2013 involved robust research with a wide range of participants including a high number of children, young people and parents. We also held specific sessions with young carers, children from traveller families, disabled children and their parents, children with English as an additional language and Wrexham's over 50s forum.

Since then we have completed an audit of the traveller site and carried out further in depth research with teenagers (year 9 pupils).

In March 2015, using the second lot of additional Welsh Government funding that Wrexham Council received to support the play sufficiency agenda, all schools in Wrexham were offered a small amount of money to support children in year five to complete the satisfaction questionnaire, with the intention of identifying those communities where children report the lowest levels of satisfaction. Following on from this the Play Development Team revisited three schools where children reported particularly low satisfaction and three where they reported high satisfaction and recorded the children (who were now in year six) talking about their opportunities for playing both in and out of school.

The online questionnaire for parents and carers used in the original assessment was then also revisited with the aim of identifying any changes in satisfaction across the county borough as a whole. The process of completing an Equalities Impact Assessment for this work then identified a number of other groups of people with protected characteristics who it would be important to consult with. This included older people, looked after children, young carers, disabled children and their carers, and families from minority ethnic backgrounds. Additional workshops were then facilitated for representatives from community councils and elected members. The Play Development Team also took advantage of other opportunities to consult with different groups of children and adults as and when they arose, this included a parenting group at Maes-y-mynydd school, young people at an event in Llay resource centre and adults attending a housing tenancy event.

Since the first Play Sufficiency Assessment in 2013, eight local and national research studies have been carried out which closely relate to the play sufficiency agenda in Wrexham. In addition more than 1450 people were involved in the 2016 assessment, and as a consequence Wrexham has robust evidence on which to base its approach. This included surveying the majority of children in year five across the county with the intention of identifying those communities where children report the lowest levels of satisfaction with their opportunities for play.

Various reports have been submitted to the Safeguarding, Communities and Well-being Scrutiny Committee prior to submission to the Executive Board, therefore the sufficiency assessment and subsequent action plans and other updates have received regular oversight to ensure that the council is fulfilling its statutory duty.

## Measures

### How will you know when you have achieved your aims?

In terms of the actual assessment we will have achieved our aims when we have involved all the above groups in the process. However in terms of actually securing sufficient opportunities for children's play we will have achieved our aims when all children have access to sufficient time and space for playing as part of their everyday lives irrespective of their characteristics.

### What are your measures / indicators of success?

Wrexham's approach to the play sufficiency duty is based on children's, young people's and parent's satisfaction with their (or their children's) opportunities for playing. Success is therefore based on whether people with protected characteristics report satisfaction with their opportunities for playing.

Approval of the Play Pledge will mark a milestone in achieving cross-departmental support for considering children's play in policy making and other activities.

## Other Influences

Identify any other policy or decision [internal or external] that may affect your proposal.

Depending on the outcome of the Difficult Decisions consultation, any cuts that the local authority makes could potentially impacted on the play sufficiency duty. Also given the fact that the vast majority of staffed play provision and the play development team are funded via Welsh Government anti-poverty programs, the future of these initiatives is likely to have a significant impact. Furthermore Community Councils also contribute significant levels of funding to staffed and unstaffed play provision and so increasing pressures on them could impact on the availability of funding to support this statutory duty.

Update August 2017 - cuts to Welsh Government's Communities First funding has been confirmed from 1st April 2018 and changes to its Families First programme will come into effect on 1st October 2017, resulting in a reduction in open-access play provision. Funding from Town and Community Council's has increased in 17/18.

Screening Tool				
	Q1. Could this proposal have a +ve or -ve effect on how functions are delivered to any of these groups?	Q2. Could this discriminate against any of these groups?	Q3. Could this proposal advance the equality of opportunity for these groups?	Q4. Could this promote good relations between these groups and the wider community?
Age CYP	+	+	+	+
Age Adults	+/-	No Impact	No Impact	+
Disability	+	+	+	+
Gender / Sex	+	+	+	+
Pregnancy & Maternity	+	No Impact	No Impact	+
Race / Ethnicity	+	+	+	+
Religion / Belief	+	+	+	+
Sexual Orientation	+	+	+	+
Marriage & Civil Partnership	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Gender Reassignment	+	+	+	+
Carers	+	+	+	+
Poverty	+	+	+	+
Welsh Language	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

Screening Impacts			
Question	Type	Category	Description
1	Positive	All	All children are innately playful and have their youth because they must play. Playing represents children's primary form of participation in their everyday lives and is central to their experience of living. Furthermore play has unique characteristics that lend themselves to the creation of experiences that are essential to all children's immediate and longer term well being. Research in Wrexham has also demonstrated that improving opportunities for play can make an area a better place to live, improve community cohesion and reduce stress on parents.
2	Positive	All	The Play Sufficiency Duty is a rights based issue associated with children and young people having equal rights to access time and space within the public realm to do what comes naturally to them. As a consequence this can be seen as an initiative that positively discriminates in the favour of children and young people to encourage a more equitable sharing of resources. It is possible that some adults may feel uncomfortable with an increase in children and young people's presence, however for the vast majority playing is seen as a positive behaviour. In fact, when consulting with over 100 people in groups that have been identified with protected characteristics, no one indicated that they would be opposed to the idea of children having more time, space and permission for playing. Play has the potential to bring people together, it can facilitate peer and place attachment, develop community cohesion, increase tolerance of others and help build more resilient communities. Playing is common to all children and for this reason play provision can be highly inclusive, however adults may need to take action to ensure all children have equitable access to provision.

3	Positive	All	This legislation seeks to uphold children's right to play by identifying and addressing barriers they may be experiencing to playing. This includes challenges associated with people's protected characteristics and so the assessment includes a section specifically focussed on meeting the play needs of marginalised or disabled children and young people
4	Positive	All	All people need to play. Play engenders positive feelings and can make people feel better about themselves, other people and where they live. Play initiatives in Wrexham have demonstrated how playing brings people together and encourages greater inter-generational interactions.

## Negative Effects

	What consultations have you carried out?	Based on the information you have gathered give a summary of key issues that have been identified.	How will we mitigate these issues to improve the service?	Who is the responsible officer for delivering the mitigation?	Which other departments will you work with to achieve this?	By when	Service Plan Reference
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Age CYP	<p>In March 2015, using the second lot of additional Welsh Government funding that Wrexham Council received to support the play sufficiency agenda, all schools in Wrexham were offered a small amount of money to support children in year five to complete the satisfaction questionnaire, with the intention of identifying those communities where children report the lowest levels of satisfaction. Following on from this the Play Development Team revisited three schools where children reported particularly low satisfaction and three where they reported high satisfaction and recorded the children (who were now in year six) talking about their opportunities for playing both in and out of school. In August 2017, work was carried out in the town centre with young people to identify their barriers to play and provision within the Town Centre.</p>	<p>Ultimately play sufficiency is about increasing people's sense of security leading to a culture of permissiveness for children, parents and professionals alike, the outcome of which will be more children playing together more of the time. The following 12 re-developed priorities represent the objectives that the Local Authority must continue to work towards to make this possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Increase object play-time during term-time</li> <li>• Priority 2: Enhance opportunities for playing in Winter</li> <li>• Priority 3: Secure safer streets for play</li> <li>• Priority 4: Secure a wider range of spaces for play</li> <li>• Priority 5: Secure spaces for play in close proximity to children's homes</li> <li>• Priority 6: Secure and maintain quality play provision</li> <li>• Priority 7: Secure a greater range of provision for teenagers</li> <li>• Priority 8: Improve children's subjective experience of time &amp; space in adult supervised provision</li> <li>• Priority 9: Enable</li> </ul>	<p>The entire play sufficiency assessment is concerned with mitigating the negative impacts on children's right to play. However one of the key actions to come out of the play sufficiency assessment process is the need to support the Equalities Impact Assessment process by developing guidance that encourages consideration of children's ability to access time and space for play, especially those with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, who leads on the Play Sufficiency Duty on behalf of the Local Authority</p>	<p>All other local authority departments</p>	<p>The current play sufficiency action plan is up until March 2019</p>	<p>Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2017/19</p>
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Age CYP	In March 2015, using the second lot of additional Welsh Government funding that Wrexham Council received to support the play sufficiency agenda, all schools in Wrexham were offered a small amount of money to support children in year five to complete the satisfaction	parents to identify ways in which they can support children's play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 10: Improve support for disabled and marginalised children</li> <li>• Priority 11: Improve generalised negative attitudes towards teenagers and their play</li> <li>• Priority 12: Ensure children have easy access to friends</li> </ul>	The entire play sufficiency assessment is concerned with mitigating the negative impacts on children's right to play. However one of the key actions to come out of the play sufficiency assessment process is the need to support the Equalities Impact Assessment process by developing	Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, who leads on the Play Sufficiency Duty on behalf of the Local Authority	All other local authority departments	The current play sufficiency action plan is up until March 2019	Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2017/19
Age Adults	Due to the scale of the research undertaken it is likely that we have captured the opinions of this demographic throughout the process. For example, 175 play sufficiency satisfaction questionnaires were completed by parents and carers from across the county borough. Furthermore, many of the workshops and consultations were undertaken with adults. In addition a consultation with Over 50's Forum took place on 11/1/16.	No one who we consulted with was opposed to the idea of children having more time, space and permission for playing in their local community. The Over 50's forum deemed the measure to be of high importance. The group spoke about the preconceptions that people have about teenagers, recognising only a minority of teenagers are capable of anti social behaviour. They also spoke about the preconceptions people have of the older generation and that they can be perceived to be less tolerant of children's play. The group wanted to see more done to counteract stereotyping of this kind and suggested that more could be done to facilitate intergenerational understanding.	Where possible and where there is an identified need, the Play Development Team will support and facilitate intergenerational approaches to addressing particular priorities identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessment.	WCBC Play Development Team	Youth Service, AVOW, schools	This is an on-going process	

Disability	4 disabled young people from the Dynamic Futures project were consulted during the play sufficiency assessment process	As recognised in Wrexham's original PSA 'Improve support for disabled and marginalised children' remains a key priority is concerned with children who are not able to access time and space for play in the ways in which most other children would be. It is important to recognise that this is likely to include those with severe and complex impairments who may require high levels of support or specific equipment to access their right to play. Parents of these children were particularly concerned about the attitude and actions of others and people's understanding of "hidden" impairments like autism and ADHD; some also said that toilet and changing facilities need to be improved. There are ways of designing spaces that would better enable children with impairments to access provision while not diminishing the experiences of other children. However for this to happen those responsible need to pay greater attention to the voices of disabled children and their parents.	The play sufficiency assessment identifies actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broaden the inclusion role within the Play Development Team to consider children's opportunities for play beyond staffed play provision, working with families and other professionals to identify ways in which these children's day-to-day experiences could be improved.</li> <li>• Ensure disabled children and their parents are involved in the design and development of new play provision.</li> <li>• Facilitate meetings with practitioners involved in TAC, fostering and social work to discuss the degree to which consideration of children's opportunities for play are embedded in their practice and ways this might be improved.</li> </ul>	Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, who leads on the Play Sufficiency Duty on behalf of the Local Authority	TAC, Child Health & Disability, Looked After Children and other social work teams	These actions will hopefully be addressed by March 2017 but this will depend on the capacity and funding for the Play Development Team	These actions will be included in the Play Development Team's operational plan
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Disability	4 disabled young people from the Dynamic Futures project were consulted during the play sufficiency assessment process	Furthermore professionals involved in social work and fostering identified a number of cases where it was likely that children (including some teenagers) had been deprived of playing and as a consequence may not have had sufficient opportunities to develop their capabilities for playing with fairly disastrous consequences for their relationships with others and general well-being. However these professionals were also concerned that sufficient consideration may not have been given to those children's past, present and future opportunities for play and the possible impacts of these. This raises questions about the processes that are in place to help a child who is either very isolated from friends (and opportunities for playing) or suffering from the consequences of being deprived of playing.	The play sufficiency assessment identifies actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broaden the inclusion role within the Play Development Team to consider children's opportunities for play beyond staffed play provision, working with families and other professionals to identify ways in which these children's day-to-day experiences could be improved.</li> <li>• Ensure disabled children and their parents are involved in the design and development of new play provision.</li> <li>• Facilitate meetings with practitioners involved in TAC, fostering and social work to discuss the degree to which consideration of children's opportunities for play are embedded in their practice and ways this might be improved.</li> </ul>	Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, who leads on the Play Sufficiency Duty on behalf of the Local Authority	TAC, Child Health & Disability, Looked After Children and other social work teams	These actions will hopefully be addressed by March 2017 but this will depend on the capacity and funding for the Play Development Team	These actions will be included in the Play Development Team's operational plan
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Gender / Sex	Children completing the play sufficiency satisfaction survey were asked identify their gender to allow the results of boys and girls to be compared. Gender did not appear to play a significant role in terms of children's satisfaction levels						
Pregnancy & Maternity							

Race / Ethnicity	Unfortunately it was not possible to involve families from minority ethnic backgrounds in the assessment this time around.	<p>the perception of those working in the EAL (English as an Additional Language) service is that parents from some of these communities do not value play in the way other adults in Wales might expect, in particular they may place less value on actually playing with their children. As a consequence there may be benefit in targeting the delivering of parenting and play workshops at these families to both share information about ways in which they could support their children's play but also better understand how they think about children, childhood and play.</p> <p>In some cultures parents may also place less emphasis on their children accessing provision, although there is some evidence to suggest this may be changing with more families from minority ethnic backgrounds starting to access services like Dynamic. This also raises the question of whether existing provision is culturally appropriate i.e. does it appeal to families from different ethnic backgrounds? As a consequence staff</p>	The Play Sufficiency Assessment identifies the need to facilitate workshops with parents from minority ethnic cultures and migrant families to explore how they think about play and identify ways of better supporting their children to play.	Play Development Team	Community Diversity team	March 2017	Play Development Team operational plan
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Race / Ethnicity	Unfortunately it was not possible to involve families from minority ethnic backgrounds in the assessment this	may benefit from having access to training on cultural awareness and engaging with these families.	The Play Sufficiency Assessment identifies the need to facilitate workshops with parents from minority ethnic	Play Development Team	Community Diversity team	March 2017	Play Development Team operational plan
Religion / Belief							
Sexual Orientation	Unfortunately we were unable to consult specifically with any LGBT children during this assessment period		The Play Development Team intend to consult LGBT children about their opportunities for play within the next 12 months	Play Development Team	Community Diversity team	March 2017	Play Development Team operational plan
Marriage & Civil Partnership							
Gender Reassignment	Unfortunately we were unable to consult specifically with any LGBT children during this assessment period		The Play Development Team intend to consult LGBT children about their opportunities for play within the next 12 months	Play Development Team	Community Diversity team	March 2017	Play Development Team operational plan
Carers	Approximately 50 young carers (aged 8 and above) were consulted during the play sufficiency assessment process	The issues raised by young carers were again consistent with those identified by other children. Interestingly, unless prompted, they did not identify their caring duties as getting in the way of their time for play. This may be because they accept these as a normal part of their lives (like most other carers) however this does highlight that adults should be even more mindful of placing additional obligations on these children's time.					

<p>Poverty</p>	<p>Prior to the play sufficiency assessment Leeds Beckett University were commissioned to further explore why children in two neighbouring communities reported significantly different levels of satisfaction with their opportunities for play and from this recommend ways of addressing low levels of satisfaction within neighbourhoods. One of these two communities is ranked as being one of the most deprived in Wrexham. This research included nine focus groups with children, parents and professionals across the two areas.</p> <p>In addition the actual play sufficiency assessment process involved the Play Development Team revisiting three schools where children reported high satisfaction and recorded the children talking about their opportunities for playing both in and out of school. One of these communities is also ranked as being one of the most deprived in Wrexham.</p>	<p>It is also important to recognize that those communities where children reported high levels of satisfaction with their play are not necessarily easy places to live. In the communities revisited children still shared stories of scary experiences (and in some cases these were first hand accounts of potentially traumatic scenarios) but importantly are able to enjoy their childhoods in spite of this.</p> <p>There are examples in Wrexham of communities where children living in poorer economic conditions are reporting substantially higher levels of satisfaction, with their opportunities for play, compared to children in other apparently more affluent areas, and this is at least partly due to the level of play provision and in particular the presence and practice of playworkers.</p> <p>During the research for this assessment there was only one community visited where children did not make generalisations about other groups of people constraining</p>	<p>It is clear that playwork provision is making a significant contribution to mitigating the impact of poverty on children in these communities. However funding for these services is reducing and their sustainability is a significant concern with funding currently only secure for open-access play until March 2018 for Communities First and October 2017 for Families First.</p>	<p>Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, is the lead contract holder for Families First funding for playwork provision and will be working with third sector partners over the next 12 months to try and secure funding for these services</p>	<p>Families First, Communities First and third sector playwork providers</p>	<p>March 2017</p>	<p>This issue is referred to in the Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2017/19</p>
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<p>Poverty</p>	<p>Prior to the play sufficiency assessment Leeds Beckett University were commissioned to further explore why children in two neighbouring communities reported significantly different levels of satisfaction with their opportunities for play and from this recommend ways of addressing low levels of satisfaction within neighbourhoods. One of these two communities is ranked as being one of the most deprived in Wrexham. This research included nine focus groups with children, parents and professionals across the two areas.</p> <p>In addition the actual play sufficiency</p>	<p>their play and this was the same place where children said the biggest helping factor was the staffed adventure playground next to their school. Children talked about the sense of security the playwork provision gave them both when they were actually at the setting or just playing out in their community. They also shared examples of being helped by the playworkers and this included staff protecting them from a scary dog, walking children home in the dark or just lending them a coat when cold. Importantly the majority of children in this community did not just rate their satisfaction as good but great.</p>	<p>It is clear that playwork provision is making a significant contribution to mitigating the impact of poverty on children in these communities. However funding for these services is reducing and their sustainability is a significant concern with funding currently only secure for open-access play until March 2018 for Communities First and October 2017 for Families First.</p>	<p>Mike Barclay, Play Development Coordinator, is the lead contract holder for Families First funding for playwork provision and will be working with third sector partners over the next 12 months to try and secure funding for these services</p>	<p>Families First, Communities First and third sector playwork providers</p>	<p>March 2017</p>	<p>This issue is referred to in the Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2017/19</p>
<p>Welsh Lang</p>	<p>Children completing the play sufficiency questionnaire were asked to confirm their first language to enable responses from Welsh speakers to be identified.</p>	<p>There was no evidence to suggest that the play needs of Welsh and English speaking children were significantly different, and language did not appear to influence children's satisfaction with their opportunities for play, although a few parents did request Welsh medium provision.</p>					

## Evidence Documents

### Linked EIAs

### Follow Up

Was any mitigation applied or was the proposal delivered as originally planned prior to the Equality Impact Assessment?

The Play Sufficiency Assessment identified actions to help mitigate impacts on children and families with protected characteristics.

Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?

This assessment has demonstrated that Wrexham is moving in the right direction with many examples included that illustrate a strategic response to the play sufficiency duty. However there is still much more to do if sufficient consideration of children's ability to find time and space for play is to become embedded in the everyday practices of adults. One of the overriding messages from the professional development program delivered to support this assessment was people's increased sense of collective responsibility i.e. the ability of all adults to identify and develop ways in which they can better respond to children's right to play. In doing this people also recognised that play sufficiency is a continuous process of repair and maintenance and not just a stand-alone paper-based assessment.

Were the impacts confined to the people you initially thought would be affected, or were other people affected? How?

The findings of Wrexham's second play sufficiency assessment have validated and built upon on recommendations of the first assessment in 2013.