



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Childcare Offer for Wales

Information Request Pro-forma to Inform Further Roll-out

Local Authority:	Powys County Council
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If you have any queries on any aspect of completing this form then please email them to TalkChilcare@gov.wales.

Section 1 – Delivery of the Childcare Offer

It is unlikely we will be able to deliver the offer in your whole local authority area. We are therefore asking you to indicate which areas you would choose first and why. These areas will eventually need to be agreed through your local democratic processes, prior to any final Ministerial decisions being taken in respect of further roll out. We have learnt from the local authorities that are already delivering the Offer that a clear rationale for choosing which areas to pilot the offer is essential and this enables political consensus and supports communications with stakeholders.

1.1 Please list the electoral wards within your local authority in the order in which you would plan to roll-out the Childcare Offer.

As an authority Powys has a high employment and low wage economy and the provision of the extended childcare offer would make a significant impact on the ability for parents of 3 and 4 year old children to make an enhanced contribution to the developing economy of the county. To allow the rollout to be managed successfully the authority would like to rollout the childcare offer across full or part catchment areas, therefore we have prioritised the list below on that basis.

1. Ystradgynlais and the upper Swansea Valley
 - Wards – Abercraf, Tawe Uchaf, Cwmtwrch, Ystradgynlais & Ynyscedwyn
2. Gwernyfed Catchment Area
 - Wards – Bronllys, Talgarth, Hay on Wye, Glasbury, Llangors, Gwernyfed, Felin Fach (Part)
3. Newtown Town
 - Wards – Newtown West, East, Central and Llanllwchaiarn North
4. Rhayader
 - Wards – Rhayader, Nantmel
5. Machynlleth
 - Wards – Machynlleth, Glantwymyn
6. Brecon
 - Wards – St Mary, St John, St David (within), Yscir, Talybont on Usk, Felin Fach (Part)

1.2 Please provide the rationale for why you have

The first two catchments prioritised for rollout (Ystradgynlais and Gwernyfed) will be the 1st

prioritised the electoral wards in this way?

September 2018 have new schools built under the 21st Century Schools programme and its predecessor, each of the 9 schools across the two catchments have been built with a range of facilities to provide integrated childcare and the early year foundation phase education provision.

1. In the Ystradgynlais catchment the authority has one of the largest and most successful Welsh Medium Primary Schools (Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr) in Wales and the authority has submitted a bid under the Infant Class capital bid to build and develop a purpose built Welsh Medium pre-school centre within the schools grounds. The other three schools are English medium and all have designated early year's class bases, with Ysgol Golwg y Cwm in the Ystradgynlais Ward serving one of the most deprived estates in the authority and is a centre of excellence in relation to community focussed schooling.

The catchment is within commuter distance to Swansea but has a shortage of high quality and affordable full day childcare provision in the area, the roll out of the childcare offer would allow the network to develop and become fully sustainable.

2. The Gwernyfed catchment area runs along the border with Herefordshire in England and the authority and schools have concerns over the number of parents taking their children over the border to access the extended childcare provision that is already being offered across the border. The offer of full day provision across the catchment would in the schools and authority's view allow us to maximise the number of children living in Wales accessing their education in Wales.

The five new schools have all been constructed with either one or two class spaces designated for community pre-school provision in readiness for the roll out of the childcare offer.

3. Newtown is the largest town in the authority and has some pockets of significant deprivation in the south and west of the town. The authority's first school built under the 21st Century's schools programme, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd again has designated pre-school class areas with increasing numbers attending the clych as the only Welsh Medium pre school provision in the town and similar



	<p>English medium provision will be included in the expected new Primary School developments under Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme.</p> <p>The town has a strong network of both school based and independent early years settings with many parents from the surrounding villages utilising the settings in the town close to their work places.</p> <p>4. Rhayader is a small town in the upper Wye valley with its dual stream primary school being the base for the two different pre-school settings. The authority has had initial discussion with the groups around establishing a single robust management structure for the joint provision. The implementation of the childcare offer would be a strong catalyst to progress this governance model.</p> <p>5. Machynlleth is a small isolated town in the north west of the authority and has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in the authority. Education is currently delivered through a dual sited through school which is planned to be replaced by a new single sited school within the next two years again with designated pre-school provision being included as part of the new facility.</p> <p>The authority is planning to expand the number of Welsh medium places in the area from the early years setting upwards, with the school being on the continuum to becoming a Welsh Medium School.</p> <p>7. Brecon is a garrison town within the Brecon Beacons National Park and is within commuter distance of Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff and Newport. Like the other catchments the provision of the extended childcare offer together with an extended day where appropriate will allow parents to maintain their full or part time posts. As with many of the other catchments the authority has included the Primary School provision within its band B 21st Century schools capital programme.</p>
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<p>1.3 What is the mix of childcare provision that parents in these electoral wards would like to access?</p>	<p>During the 2016-17 school year the authority recommissioned the provision of the part time 3+ Pre-School early years foundation phase education provision. A network of 80 early years providers commenced delivering the 12.50 hours per week of funded early years provision in September 2017. These settings and other early years providers across the authority provide a mixture of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessional care • Wrap around/full day care • Child minders • Flying Start settings • Foundation Phase pre-school settings
<p>1.4 Do you believe there is sufficient formal childcare available to meet the needs of parents?</p>	<p>Generally the authority believes that there is sufficient formal childcare places in the priority catchment/ward areas either through the purpose built provision in the recently built schools or through the other CSSIW registered settings in the areas. The only exception to this is the demand for Welsh medium places in Ysgol Dyffryn Y Glowyr which would be resolved if the authority was successful in its bid for the capital funding for the development of a purpose built early years centre on the school site.</p>
<p>1.5 What evidence do you have of demand for Welsh-medium provision in these electoral wards?</p>	<p>The authority is currently reviewing its model for projecting demand for Welsh Medium provision and in addition works closely with third sector organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin to project future demand for Welsh medium provision.</p> <p>Of the 80 pre-school funded foundation phase settings approximately 25% deliver Welsh medium provision. It is the authorities experience that if offered, Welsh medium provision will grow and it is currently exploring options for the development of new welsh medium early years provision in specific geographical areas of the authority.</p>
<p>1.6 Is there currently sufficient Welsh-medium provision in these electoral wards to meet this demand?</p>	<p>Yes, subject to the development of additional space at Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr as detailed in 1.4 above.</p>

<p>1.7 What effect would an increased demand for Welsh-medium provision, as a result of introducing the Offer, have in these electoral wards?</p>	<p>The authority in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) has identified strategies to develop the number of children in the authority accessing Welsh Medium Provision.</p> <p>The majority of the catchment areas identified have a significant percentage of first language Welsh speakers and the authority believes that the increased demand for Welsh speaking staff can be met from the local community, in the majority of the settings.</p>
<p>1.8 Are the electoral wards served by a Welsh-medium primary school to facilitate progression between Welsh-medium childcare and Welsh-medium statutory education?</p>	<p>The authority through its, WESP, Planning of School Places policy, its Home to School Transport policy and its Schools Service Asset Management Plans have a developed network of pre-school and school provides to ensure progression from early years to the end of his/her statutory age education provision.</p> <p>Like many other areas of Wales the progression into Welsh Medium KS5 provision is limited in some geographical areas of Powys, in particular along the English border.</p>

Section 2 – Governance.

Strong governance arrangements and political buy-in are key to delivering the Childcare Offer.

<p>2.1 What governance arrangements do you propose to oversee the development, and delivery, of the Childcare Offer?</p>	<p>During the 2016-17 school year the authority established a multi service project team to manage the successful change in the age of admission in to its Primary Schools and the recommissioning of the pre-school part time early years foundation phase education provision. The project was overseen by a programme board jointly chaired by a senior manager from the Schools and CYPP services.</p> <p>If the authority was successful in its bid it is proposed that the terms of reference of the current team is extended to include the overseeing of the rollout of the childcare offer.</p>
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<p>2.2 How quickly could you establish any new governance arrangements?</p>	<p>The Governance arrangements are already largely in place and would only require the proposed changes to the terms of reference to the project team to be signed off jointly by the portfolio holder for Schools and Children</p>
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Section 3 - Resources to administer the Offer

The Welsh Government provides a grant for administrating the Childcare Offer. One of the lessons coming from those local authorities that are administrating and delivering the childcare offer is the need for strong internal links between the childcare team and other departments within the local authority, particularly: IT; finance; audit; education; Family Information Service; and social care.

<p>3.1 Please outline the staffing structure that you would propose to develop, and deliver, the Childcare Offer.</p>	<p>The actual staffing structure would be dependent on the number of wards the provision is rolled out to in the first year.</p> <p>The programme board for the rollout of the offer would be jointly chaired by a senior manager from the Schools and CYPP Services.</p> <p>They would be supported by relevant project managers and other multi service officers from the project team. Dedicated administrative support would be allocated to the offer.</p> <p>If the authority was successful in its bid for September 2018, it would as a matter of urgency arrange meeting with the key officers from RCT which is an early adopter authority to gain a full understanding of the requirements,</p>
<p>3.2 Please outline how you would enable on-line applications for parents?</p>	<p>The authority has commenced on line applications for admissions into it Primary and Secondary School in the current year and is exploring the option of managing applications for early years settings on the same model for the 2018-19 year.</p> <p>The authority has also developed a common and shared MIS system between Health and Social Services and a small working group of officers to extend the shared system with officers in the Schools Service in order to allow the service to</p>

	<p>establish the age and home address of all pre-school children living in Wales.</p> <p>As part of its project plan the authority would have a workstream specifically to establish the online application, entitlement and renewal procedures. A key element of the process will be the liaison with the early adopter authorities to have a clear understanding of the requirements and issues they faced. Staff from ICT, Finance, Revenues and Benefits and the Schools and CYPP services would be key members of this specific workstream working to a clear and programmed project plan.</p>
<p>3.3 Can you outline the data protection arrangements within your local authority and how these would be applied to the delivery of the Childcare Offer?</p>	<p>Powys County Council has a dedicated Information Governance & Compliance Team which is being expanded in light of the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations, specifically in relation to schools. All staff with access to personal data are required to undertake the mandatory Data Protection and Information Security training either by e-learning or a workbook. All children's data is held on the Teacher Centre Information system and access is password protected and with various levels of security. A data sharing protocol (as per WASPI guidelines) is being worked towards and if agreed will be passed through the North & South Wales Quality Control system for ISP's. All providers are reminded of the need to register with the Information Commissioner as processors of personal data and are reminded to issue a privacy notice and to undertake data impact assessment. Plans are in place to support schools with GDPR compliance; however, overall responsibility for this rests squarely with individual schools and Early Years settings as data controllers.</p>
<p>3.4 Would you be prepared to pay childcare providers in advance for delivering the Childcare Offer? How would you achieve this?</p>	<p>Ensuring providers have the appropriate cash flow to allow them to make salary payments at the end of each month has been an essential requirement of the recently recommissioned early years provision in Powys and we already have arrangements in place to make payments in a timely manner.</p> <p>The authority is experienced in making payments in advance of receipts of grants and would be prepared</p>

	<p>to support the provision of payment to providers in advance, To make the advance payments each provider would need to be established as a supplier to the authority with a unique creditor reference. Depending on the accounting requirements the advance payments could be charged to either the revenue or balance sheet codes, with the advances being recovered in line with the pre agreed arrangements. As with 3.1 above discussions with colleagues in RCT would be undertaken to discuss the pros and cons for each of the available options.</p>
<p>3.5 What monitoring systems do you have in place for Foundation Phase Nursery (Early Education)? How would you report on the number of Foundation Phase Nursery hours a child actually uses?</p>	<p>All pre-school settings providing foundation phase education are monitored by a team of centrally funded advisory teachers. Settings receive at least two on-site support visits each term and two half-day training sessions as part of the statutory support. Support and training is based on improving outcomes for children, quality of provision and leadership & management. Settings requiring additional support receive more on-site visits to improve. This can be as a result of new staff, new leaders & manager, changes in the governance structure of the settings or as identified by Estyn or CSSIW in an inspection. The authority has also appointed a contract manager to monitor learner numbers, hours of foundation phase education taken up by each child in each setting, provided through monitoring documentation provided from the setting. The authority is exploring the option of implementing on – line attendance data for all settings through its Teacher Centre MIS system. If successful in its bid the authority would extend the above monitoring system to the extended childcare provision in funded settings.</p>

Section 4 – Foundation Phase Nursery

The Childcare Offer is comprised of the child’s existing entitlement to Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) provision and childcare. It is important that the offer is delivered in a way that support parents’ ability to access both, without compromising either.

<p>4.1 How many hours of FPN provision do children in your authority receive?</p>	<p>With effect from the 1st September 2017 children can access up to 12.5 hours of free funded education in Powys approved and funded settings.</p>
<p>4.2 Is the approach to delivery of FPN consistent across the authority? If not, please outline the differences highlighting how this would affect the electoral wards prioritised under section 1.</p>	<p>Of the 80 settings funded around 5 settings only offer 12 hours of free funded education because of availability of accommodation such as community halls.</p> <p>The above settings are not located in the proposed priority areas identified above and are generally located in small rural villages.</p> <p>The majority of the foundation phase provision is delivered in the morning with some of the larger settings offering morning or afternoon sessions and some offer both morning and afternoon sessions to meet parental choice.</p> <p>The authority is confident that it can meet parental demand for the extended childcare offer in its priority wards, subject to being successful in its bid for capital grant to develop and extend the pre-school provision in Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr in the Ystradgynlais catchment.</p>
<p>4.3 How might you deliver FPN provision differently in order to make it more accessible for parents to access both the FPN and the childcare elements of the offer?</p>	<p>It is expected in most cases the setting providing the FPN provision will also provide the childcare element of the offer. The authority already has examples where children access the FPN provision at one setting and accesses paid childcare provision at a second linked child care setting.</p> <p>The authority already allows parents to access the FPN provision from up to two settings and it would extend this model to the combined FPN and childcare elements. It is the authority's view that this provision should be limited to a maximum of two different setting in a week for any individual child.</p>

<p>4.4 What monitoring systems do you have in place for FPN?</p>	<p>All pre-school settings providing foundation phase education are monitored by a team of advisory teachers. Settings receive at least two on-site support visits each term and two half-day training sessions as part of the statutory support. Support and training is based on improving outcomes for children, quality of provision and leadership & management. Settings requiring additional support receive more on-site visits to improve. This can be because of new staff, new leaders & manager or as identified by Estyn.</p>
<p>4.5 Are you able to report on the number of FPN hours a child actually uses?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Section 5 – Special Educational Needs

We must make sure children with SEN can access the Childcare Offer and therefore need to know what are your current early years SEN arrangements and, if they don't already, could these be adapted to include 3 and 4 yr old children.

<p>5.1 What current arrangements do you have to identify children 3 and 4 years old with SEN in your local authority?</p>	<p>The authority has a number of processes to identify children with ALN and SEN at an early stage. Children with significant Physical, Sensory or Learning needs are identified through a combination of CYPP, Health and Schools Service joint meetings with detailed plans and provision for the child's education being planned and implements during the child's pre-school and early year's education.</p> <p>In addition the authority commissions Action for Children to assess and support children with lower levels of ALN / SEN needs through the provision of advice, support and training and where required through additional funding for additional staffing levels.</p>
<p>5.2 Could your existing arrangements adapted to facilitate children with SEN to access the Childcare Offer?</p>	<p>Yes, subject to the provision of any required additional funding.</p>

<p>5.3 Is there another way?</p>	<p>The authority is currently developing a project plan to undertake a full review of its ALN and SEN provision in response to both the recently enacted ALN reform act and to ensure that the authority is utilising its resources in an efficient and effective way.</p> <p>Included as part of this review will be the role of the four pre-school assessment centres located in the authority with an expectation that they will develop a wider advisory and support role to the 80 funded settings across the authority.</p>
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Section 6 – Regional /Joint Working

We will expect any new local authorities coming on board wherever possible to work with existing early implementers in delivering the offer, in order to build on best practice and to ensure economies of scale. These early implementers are: Anglesey and Gwynedd (working together), Flintshire, Swansea, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent. In the event that this is not possible, we expect joint working with neighbouring local authorities within regional educational consortia given that Foundation Phase Nursery is a key component of the Childcare Offer

<p>6.1 Which neighbouring local authorities do you propose to work with to deliver the Childcare Offer at full roll-out?</p>	<p>The authority already has some examples of joint working with neighbouring authorities in both England and Wales. As an authority with 14 neighbours we would look to have reciprocal arrangements with as many of our neighbouring authorities as possible. It is our expectation that we would work jointly with some or all of the following authorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceredigion • Gwynedd • Wrexham • Denbighshire • Carmarthenshire • N&PT • RCT • Monmouth • Merthyr • Caerphilly • Blaenau Gwent
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torfaen • Herefordshire • Shropshire
<p>6.2 In the event that 6.1 isn't possible, which neighbouring local authorities do you propose to work with? Are there existing partnership arrangements in place?</p>	<p>We would prioritise those authorities we already have informal arrangements with including Herefordshire and Shropshire in England.</p> <p>In respect to Welsh Authorities we would prioritise establishing reciprocal arrangements with :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monmouthshire - N&PT - Carmarthenshire - Ceredigion - Gwynedd <p>Three of the five authorities are also our partner authorities in ERW with the remaining two authorities having borders with Powys in areas of relevant population density for Powys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>