



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	12 th August 2022 *
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Service Area	Prevention
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	5 th October 2022

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Early Years Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to agree the Early Years Partnership Plan (EYPP) 2022 - 2027
- 1.2 The report outlines the key priorities of the Early Years Partnership Plan which has been developed in collaboration and has also undergone a period of consultation with key partners including parents ensuring a coproduction approach to future service delivery.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The Early Years Partnership Plan is approved.
- 2.2 The provision to members of an annual report on progress against the priorities within the plan be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Early Years Partnership Plan (Appendix A) has been developed in collaboration with the Early Years Partnership Group which has representatives from: the Local Authority; Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB); Public Health Wales and voluntary sector childcare providers and support organisations (see members appendix B). This partnership is a long standing group that meets termly and provided a platform across these organisations to develop shared ownership and better collaboration across Early Years within Merthyr Tydfil. The Early Years

systems is a complex myriad of services, eligibility, access points and funding arrangements that relies on a range of partners to deliver a cohesive offer to children and families. To be successful, it is important that this plan is owned by partners with accountability across the partnership for delivering on the agreed priorities.

3.2 During the development of the plan, the partnership has taken account of local strategies and priorities as well as national policy direction. This has included the list below, alongside a range of other policy initiatives from Welsh Government (WG) across the region.

- Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) Strategy
- Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Cymraeg 2050
- Building a Brighter Future: Early Year and Childcare Plan – WG
- Parenting Partnership Plan 2020 – 2023
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022
- Cwm Taf Regional Early Years Plan (Draft)

3.3 Due to the nature of the work, some key actions are progressing in tandem with Education timescales such as the implementation of the ALNET (Wales) but other priorities will be implemented over a longer time frame. Annual Action Plans will be implemented that supported the delivery of the Early Years plan progress reported to members on an annual basis.

- Parents welcome the approach to transition between pre-school and school.
- Parents value the role of the Health Visitor but felt it important that consistent messages were given to families whilst recognising that every child and family is unique.
- Health Welcomes the inclusion of key health based priorities and recognised the alignment of the strategic direction.
- Strengthening the links between the pre-birth pathway across statutory and preventative services.
- Ensuring that the benefit of bilingualism is promoted by all partners working with families in early years.

4.0 FINDINGS & FUTURE PRIORITIES

4.1 The plan has an overarching vision with 5 priorities, sitting beneath the priorities are a number of actions that will go onto form part of an annual action plan. The action plan will be delivered and monitored by the Early Years Partnership Group and progress will be reported back to Council.

4.2 In order to measure success of the plan a number of national Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) will be closely monitored; however, it is important to recognise that the delivery of priorities within the plan will only play a small part in attempting to impact on these national measures. The local key performance indicators within the plan can be directly controlled and influenced by the work of the partnership planning group and will be utilised to measure impact of the plan.

4.3 The following is a short summary of the priorities with the plan, why they have been identified for taking forward and some key actions.

<p><u>Priority 1</u> Merthyr Tydfil has high quality Early Years provision that is focused on positive outcomes and provides children with the best start before entering school.</p>	<p>Evidence that good quality early years provision improves outcomes for children- focus on developing critical skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital competency.</p> <p>Recruitment, retention and development of the early years workforce will be key to supporting quality provision.</p> <p>Important that parents can make informed choice on accessing Welsh language early years and education provision for their child and ensuring Welsh medium provision is available to families.</p>
<p><u>Priority 2</u> All children enjoy a healthy lifestyle which encourages an optimum level of health and wellbeing for the whole family</p>	<p>Rates of obesity and dental caries at age 5 years highest across Wales.</p> <p>Consistent public health messages responsibility of all professionals working with families in the early years.</p> <p>Innovative programs to support families to make healthy lifestyle choices and childcare settings to achieve health awards.</p>
<p><u>Priority 3</u> Effective collaboration between the Early Years sector, health, statutory Education and families to support seamless transitions for all children.</p>	<p>Sound transition between services important to improving outcomes for children and their wellbeing. Implementing cross sector moderation and the new curriculum for seamless link to education curriculum when available.</p> <p>Involving children and families in services that affect them.</p>
<p><u>Priority 4</u> Parents are actively engaged in their child's development and learning from the ante-natal period onwards recognising their role as primary educators.</p>	<p>Ensuring a focus on the parent – infant relationship as the biggest influencer on children's outcomes as identified in the Parent Infant foundation research.</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's development from very early pregnancy onwards.</p>
<p><u>Priority 5</u> Partners across Early Years actively work with families to help identify what is important to them to ensure they have access to the right support at the right time with a focus on building resilience</p>	<p>The Early Years system can be complex and difficult to navigate for professionals and parents.</p> <p>Strive for a joined up integrated early years system that places the needs of children and families at the centre.</p> <p>Ensure the views of families are captured effectively and used to influence future service design and delivery.</p>

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implication associated with this report.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4	
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	4 of 10	0 of 10	6 of 10	
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	5 of 6	0 of 6	1 of 6	
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required	
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	
6. Data and Evidence	Yes		No	
	1 of 1		0 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral/Not Applicable
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
Summary				
The main positive impacts are:	The main positive impacts are that there will be focus on children and their families in the early years receiving the right services at the right time in order to build resilience and improve health and educational outcomes			
The main negative impacts are:	There are no negative impacts associated with this plan.			

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) Strategy	2020	MTCBC Website
Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	2021	Education Department
Cymraeg 2050	2017	Welsh Government Website
Building a Brighter future: Early Years and Childcare Plan – WG	2013	Welsh Government Website
Parenting Partnership Plan 2020 – 2023	2020	Social Services Department
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.