

Statutory Duty

Childcare Act Section 22 and 26: Power to require local authority to assess childcare provision

The childcare Act 2006 was passed in parliament in June 2006 and enshrines in law:

- A parents Legitimate expectation of accessible, high quality childcare for children and their families

Section 26 of the 'Childcare Act 2006' makes clear the role of Local Authorities in assessing childcare provision in their local areas. Within Newport City Council, our aim is to generate an overall picture of Parents' use of and demand for childcare in our local area and plan accordingly to address any gaps in provision.

This assessment is a necessary first step towards securing sufficient provision, enabling Local Authorities to identify Gaps and establish plans to meet the needs of parents so that they can fulfil their childcare sufficiency duty under section 22. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) fulfils this duty and provides the evidence for the purpose of this proposal.

Newport City Council has a duty to plan and develop childcare services in the local area to meet new statutory responsibilities placed on all local authorities in Wales from April 2008 under section 22.

Section 22: Newport City Council is required to... 'Secure as far as is reasonably practical, sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to work or to undertake training or education or to prepare for work.'

Definition of Childcare

For the purpose of this document:

Childcare is an income dependant business that is run by a private or voluntary organisation.

Childcare can be sessional (morning or afternoons) or full day care

Childcare of this nature is predominantly for parents to, study or train, enter employment, retain employment, or increase their hours of employment.

Childcare in this context is not associated with or fulfilled by Flying Start part time places for 2 year olds nor is it associated with or fulfilled by the School Nursery Reorganisation Plan that looks to expand nursery classes within existing school buildings.

Supply and Demand

The status of childcare within the city at present is a mixed picture. Whilst some areas of the city are densely populated with childcare, other wards are left with a shortfall, particularly where there are developments of 2-4 bedroom dwellings and no community venues or vacant buildings to develop childcare place.

Detailed evidence of the supply v's demand can be found within the [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment](#).

The information below highlights 3 wards in the city that will be seeing a significant increase in 2-4 bedroom family dwellings over the next 4 years. Demand for childcare places in these areas already falls short of demand.

Liswerry – Priority Area

- There are currently 12 childcare settings in this ward
- There are 117 term time places
- Holiday places total 107, 30 of which are in a holiday club
- The majority of settings open after 7.30am and close before 6.30pm

- The average cost per hour is £3.73
- There are 0.14 places per child

Llanwern

- There are currently 3 childcare settings in this ward
- There are 69 term time places
- Holiday places total 69 with zero designated holiday clubs
- The majority of settings open after 7.30am and close before 6.30pm
- The average cost per hour is £4.56p
- There are 0.43 places per child

Rogerstone

- There are currently 27 childcare settings in this ward (predominantly childminders)
- There are 286 term time places
- Holiday places total 155 with **zero** designated holiday provision
- The majority of settings open before 9am and close before 6.30pm
- The average cost per hour is £3.57
- There are 0.48 places per child
- Rogerstone has the highest number of childminders (21) but ratio's for childminders are far lower e.g. maximum of 6 children are allowed to be cared for and they are predominantly children over 5 years.
- Demand is still increasing due to commuting, housing developments and changes to Care Social Service Inspectorate Wales regulations

Anticipated cost of developing childcare

	Priority Area Only (£)	All 3 areas Total (£)
Complete Build	800,000	2,400,000
Complete Renovation or small build e.g. demountable	500,000	1,500,000
Small Renovations to existing buildings	160,000	48,000

We request that childcare provision is added to the CIL Regulation 123 List. Contributions from CIL would be used by the Council to ensure it meets its statutory obligation of providing sufficient childcare across the City. This will involve the issuing of conditional grants to private childcare businesses or small voluntary run childcare settings to develop childcare in the area(s) identified in accordance with State Aid rules.