

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2207
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Childcare Sufficiency Report 2011

Decision maker	Cllr Chris Watt, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
The Issue	The Childcare Act 2006 instructs local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. The legislation requires that a full report and action plan are published every three years. This is the second report and plan following the first published in 2008.
Decision Date	26th March 2011
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the report and its recommendations are used by the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations for reporting on Childcare Sufficiency as outlined in the Childcare Act 2006.
Rationale for decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The report has been compiled in order for the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations for reporting on Childcare Sufficiency as outlined in the Childcare Act 2006. 2 The report and action plan have followed the Department for Education statutory guidance for local authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties.
Financial and budget implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 In summary, sufficient childcare is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enabling parents/carers to take up, or remain in work; • undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work; • to secure free early years provision for all eligible children. Currently this is for 3 and 4 year old children but the new 2 year old offer will extend this duty between the 2011 and 2014 sufficiency cycle. 2 The local authority must have regard to the needs of parents in their area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for provision for which the childcare element of Working Tax Credit is payable; and • the provision of childcare that is suitable for disabled children 3 The Childcare Act 2006 legislation, Section 8(3), specifies that a local authority may not provide childcare unless it is satisfied that no other person is willing to provide it or, if another person is willing to do so, that in the circumstances it is appropriate for the local authority to provide the childcare. 4 The local authority role is that of market management, for example, monitoring the childcare market and gaps in the market; supporting new entrants to the market; supporting existing

	<p>providers where it is necessary to maintain sufficient levels of provision; provision of information, advice and guidance; enabling national requirements for change to take place e.g. increases in hours of the 3 and 4 year old early years entitlement, the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage, changes in Ofsted registration requirements for all providers with children up to the age of 8.</p> <p>5 To date the Council has used the funding received from the Sure Start Grant and other Government grants, often but not exclusively from, the Department for Education, to enable this work to happen.</p> <p>6 From April 2011 these funding streams have been replaced by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) from the Department for Education. Part of the EIG has been allocated to support delivery of this work, but it is not ring fenced to do so.</p> <p>7 The Council would be obliged under current legislation, so far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the requirements of the Act with or without the EIG. Provision of the EIG for this work enables the duty to not impact on other Council resources.</p>
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Other Legal Considerations.
Consultation undertaken	Cabinet member; Parish Council; Town Council; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Youth Council; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Charter Trustees of Bath; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	<p>1 Extensive consultation has been carried out in compiling the report including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 525 Families/Parents responded to our questionnaire • 52 children took part in consultations at their out of school club, over 20 gave their views at a play event, and 284 children evaluated the “Your Time” activities • 66 registered providers replied to a consultation • 132 questionnaires were sent to employers from a list from Business West and 55 responses were received (42%) from a variety of sectors. <p>2 Extensive consultation was carried out on the draft report including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of the Council’s on line consultation facilities which was joined by 126 people and 14 chose to make a written response. • a press release receiving local media coverage • Children’s Trust Board • Overview and Scrutiny panel 17th January 2011.
Other options considered	None

Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	