

Gap analysis and areas for improvement

Appendix 1

Taking account of your analysis of the supply and demand of childcare, summarise the gaps in provision, specific focus should be given to the following areas:

The following postcodes have been used throughout the document. The table below details the areas that fall into each post coded area:

CF31	Bridgend Town, Brackla, Coity, Pen-y-Fai
CF32	Cefn Cribwr, Laleston, Ogmores Vale, Tondu, Sarn, Ynysawdre, Pontycymer, Llangeinor, Garw Valley, Blaengarw, Blackmill, Bettws and Aberkenfig.
CF33	Cornelly and Pyle
CF34	Maesteg Town, Llangynwyd, Caerau, Nantyllyon
CF35	Pencoed, Coychurch
CF36	Porthcawl, Nottage and Newton
CF39	Evanstown and Gilfach Goch

For the purposes of the report CF32 and CF39 information has been reported under CF32 data.

Respondents were asked why they do not use childcare in all instances for their children. Of the responses provided, there were 48 instances where the childcare currently available isn't perceived sufficient enough for respondents:

Statement	CF31	CF32/CF39	CF33	CF34	CF35	CF36	Overall
Childcare is too expensive	7	3	6		6	1	27
There is no wrap around or after school club at my child(ren)'s school	2	3	1	2	1	2	11
There is no childcare that can cater for my child(ren)'s additional needs		1		1	1		3
I have problems with transport	1	1					2
There is no childcare available at the times that I need it	1				1		2
There is no childcare that is in the right location							1

There is no suitable Welsh Medium provision					1		1
'Other' - new resident		1					1
Total							48

Of the 'other' statements, one was regarding difficulty in accessing childcare. 'I don't know my resources, I am new down here', the respondent had recently moved to CF32/CF39. One resident stated there was no childcare in the right location, but failed to provide a postal address, thus, it cannot be identified as a gap.

Childcare is deemed as too expensive for over half (56%) of those not using childcare. Of the 27 respondents who stated childcare was too expensive, seven were earning a household income of less than £20,000, four were earning between £20,001 and £40,000, whilst another seven had a household income of over £40,001.

Average annual household income	CF31	CF32/CF39	CF33	CF35	CF36	Total
£0 - £10,000			2			2
£10,001 - £20,000	1	1	1	1	1	5
£20,001 - £30,000	2					2
£30,001 - £40,000			2			2
£40,001 - £50,000	1		1	2		4
£50,001 - £60,000				2		2
£70,000+		1				1

Welsh medium childcare provision.

One resident in CF35 stated they did not use childcare as there was no suitable Welsh-medium provision in their area. This was also supported by respondents from CF35 having the lowest level of satisfaction (57%) for the statement regarding having enough childcare in the language of their choice, against an average of 70 per cent.

Atypical childcare

Two respondents stated they did not use childcare as it was not available during the hours they needed the support.

One respondent lived in CF31 and requested care before 8am and after 6pm, including overnight and weekend care.

The other respondent lived in CF35 and requested care before 8am and after 5.30pm.

No overnight or weekend childcare is currently provided in Bridgend County Borough. None of the respondents indicated requiring this service in the future. However, parents are using other forms of childcare:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Overnight (6pm – 7am)	2	2	3	1	3	2	1

Care during school holidays

Overall, the majority of respondents (71%) were satisfied with the quality of childcare during the school holiday period. This was significantly lower in CF34 with only one in three (33%) stating they were satisfied with the school holiday childcare.

Childcare for children with additional needs

Three respondents stated they could not access childcare based upon their child's additional needs. Of the three, two had defined their child's disability as speech and language living in the CF32/CF39 and CF35 postcode areas. The final respondent defined their child's disability as dyslexia living in the CF34 area of the county borough.

One respondent wanted childcare in British Sign Language.

Wrap-around care

All areas referenced the requirement for more wrap-around care. This should also support a minority of respondents who stated that the childcare currently provided was a barrier to them accessing employment and training opportunities, largely in the CF33 (64%) and CF34 (67%) areas. CF34 respondents also had a lower confidence in their childcare arrangements as 83 per cent stated they had problems with unreliable childcare, this was significantly higher than the average of 35 per cent.

Childcare time requests

Of those who did not use childcare, these are the times they would if it was provided:

	CF31	CF32/CF39	CF33	CF34	CF35	CF36
Before 8am	1	1		1	1	1
After 6pm		1	1	1		
Over-night care						1
Weekend care				1		

Other notable considerations.

Approaching one in four (23%) of respondents believed that there was no childcare available for their child at their age. This was highest in CF33 with one in two (50%) respondents agreeing with the statement. Those age ranges were: under 12 months (2), 2 years (2), 3 years (1), and 8-11 years old (2).

Seven in ten (69%) of CF33 residents state there is little choice of childcare in the area, significantly above the average of 51 per cent. Similarly, CF33 (78%) and CF32 (79%) both believe there should be more registered childcare provision in the areas, above the average of 52 per cent.

In summary, the following issues and gaps have been identified through the consultations:

- Childcare is perceived as too expensive
- More Welsh-medium childcare is required in CF35
N.B. There is a Cylch Meithrin in Pencoed but there is no Welsh-medium, out-of-school childcare in this area due to the Welsh-medium primary school sitting in the CF31 postcode. It is unclear in these responses what type of childcare the respondents would like to be available in the medium of Welsh.
- Atypical childcare is an identified gap across two specific postcodes: CF31 and CF35. However, no area offers this atypical provision and, as such, is a gap across the county.
- Specialist childcare provision for children with additional needs has been identified as a gap. This is based on the parental questionnaire data and also the Focus group data. The areas of CF32/CF39 and CF35 are highlighted as being a specific gap.
N.B. However, with Y Bont, Bridgend has an identified specialist provision that supports children and families cross the county. Through available grants, there is 1:1 funding in the early years sector and many provisions are inclusive but are unable to fund the additional staffing required to meet the needs of the child/ren.

- Wraparound provision has been identified as a gap across the county borough, particularly in CF34 and CF33.
- It is perceived that CF33 residents believe there is little choice of childcare in their area.
N.B. There is Flying Start, a Cylch Meithrin, a playgroup, two day nurseries, a breakfast club, an after-school club and a holiday club, a youth provision and an after-school club based in one of the schools. There are also at least three childminders. Although this is perceived as a gap, the reality is that the area is well served by a variety of provision, in both English and Welsh and for a variety of ages.
- CF32/CF39 appears to show a lack of registered childcare provision.
N.B. The Garw Valley and Ogmore Valley are areas that continue to require development and are a geographical gap. However, the Garw Valley has seen improvements in recent development, such as an after-school club in Ffaldau and a registered Cylch Meithrin in Cwm Garw.

Important issues to note

As indicated in the Introduction of this document, the supply data has proved to be inaccurate due to the implementation of the SASS data, which proved to be more complicated than first anticipated. As such, the gaps that would usually be identified from supply against demand have not been generated or, in some cases, have identified gaps that do not exist. The Childcare Team are fully aware of the real gaps across the county and will identify them within the Action Plan, alongside detailing how it is hoped these gaps will be filled. The comprehensive Action Plan will clearly set out the priorities of the Childcare Team across the next five years and will include strategies to deal with the Childcare Offer. While it is clear that parental consultation have identified some gaps, which must be noted, the Childcare Team are also aware of the following gaps in the county borough:

- Garw Valley (all types of provision) – CF32/CF39
- Ogmore Valley (all types of provision but in particular, Welsh-medium) – CF32/CF39
- Porthcawl (playgroup and after-school provision on school sites) – CF36
- Brackla (playgroup – English and Welsh-medium) – CF31
- Valleys Gateway (holiday provision – English and Welsh-medium) – CF32/CF39
- Increase registered out of school provision across the county
- Increase Wraparound provision across the county