

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

25 FEBRUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PROPOSAL TO PILOT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (ECEC) INITIATIVE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the options to progress Welsh Government's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) pilot and to seek approval of Cabinet's preferred option.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 The report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Supporting a successful economy** - we will take steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- **Helping people to be more self-reliant** - we will take early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- **Smarter use of resources** - ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current situation for early years' provision within Bridgend is set out below:

- a child who becomes 3 in the autumn term can access 10 hours per week of part-time provision from the start of the spring term following his/her 3rd birthday (in a maintained (ie in a school nursery) or non-maintained (not in a school nursery) setting);
- a child who becomes 3 in the spring term can access 10 hours per week of part-time provision from the start of the summer term following his/her 3rd birthday (in a maintained or non-maintained setting);
- a child who becomes 3 in summer term can access full-time provision in a maintained setting from the September following his/her 3rd birthday; and

- a parent could choose not to send their child to a maintained setting from the September following their child's 3rd birthday and could instead secure a local authority-funded place in a non-maintained setting, for 10 hours per week, until the child reaches statutory school age.

3.2 Currently, the cost of the enhanced Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) hours in the maintained sector is met by the local authority. The foundation phase nursery provision is non-statutory, Welsh Government-funded, school nursery provision. Welsh Government funds all local authorities to provide 10 hours of foundation phase nursery provision for all children in the term following their 3rd birthday. Bridgend County Borough Council provides full-time, foundation phase school nursery provision for all learners from the September following a child's 3rd birthday.

3.3 Bridgend implemented the Welsh Government's national Childcare Offer across the whole of the county borough from April 2019.

3.4 The Welsh Government (WG) Childcare Offer is a commitment to provide 30 hours of funded early education and childcare for 3 and 4 year-old children of eligible working parents for up to 48 weeks of the year (ie 39 weeks of provision during school term time and 9 weeks of the year during school holiday periods). The primary aims of the policy are:

- to enable more parents to return to work;
- to increase the disposable income of those in work and help counteract poverty for those in low-paid jobs; and
- to encourage child development and school readiness.

3.5 Children born in the autumn or spring terms in receipt of part-time nursery provision in either the maintained or non-maintained sectors with working parents are also eligible for childcare via the WG Childcare Offer until they are offered full-time provision from the September following their third birthday.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 ECEC is a new approach being introduced by Welsh Government which aims to develop a holistic vision of education and childcare to support children in their early years. WG feels that piloting an ECEC approach would develop understanding of the challenges and opportunities this change could bring. These include:

- a universal system of ECEC - drawing together the existing early education and childcare practices into a single approach, all children would benefit from all aspects of the pedagogy and standards across the two sectors;
- increased parental choice - establishing delivery of both early education and childcare to all Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered settings, would provide parents with increased flexibility in choosing settings which meet their family's needs;

- a better understanding of the delivery challenges - at the moment the two sectors have different qualification, regulation and inspection requirements, with little to no cross over (testing a single, aligned approach would help WG better understand the challenges and develop ways to address them); and
- testing capacity and sustainability of the proposed system – across Wales, many childcare settings claim that being unable to deliver early education has a negative impact on their business (opening up the ECEC landscape could test the impact upon provision with potential for new revenue streams for both maintained and non-maintained settings and improve working relationships across the sectors).

4.2 The ECEC pilot will ultimately focus on the removal of barriers that exist between education and care to ensure that any setting, whether a school or private/voluntary childcare, can offer ECEC provision. A consultation plan will be developed to ensure schools and other key partners are appropriately engaged in the pilot. The pilot is not about supplementing or replacing discretionary FPN funding but will work towards universal funding methods for provision across maintained and non-maintained settings. The options outlined at paragraph 4.8 provide further information in respect of the eligibility and type of provision on offer.

4.3 The overarching parameters of the pilot are:

- WG provides Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) with funding for the ECEC pilot;
- Bridgend continues to commit to provide 30 hours education provision for 'rising 4s';
- all settings who express an interest to pilot, both schools and childcare sector, are supported to deliver 30 hours ECEC provision;
- working parents are to be no worse off in Bridgend than in other local authorities (ie working parents will be able to access the 'Childcare Offer' hours during terms where part-time FPN provision is available, alongside holiday childcare provision);
- options available to non-working parents are set out at paragraph 4.8; and
- evaluation and monitoring activity will run alongside the pilot.

4.4 Welsh Government officials have confirmed that up to **£3.5m per year** is available to support this pilot. The parameters of the budget calculation have been identified as:

- The 10 hours statutory foundation phase provision is already paid to the local authority via the Revenue Support Grant (£2.1m).
- Only working parents are eligible for the Childcare Offer and therefore funding is to be provided for the children of working parents only (ie 64% of all families).

- Based on information provided to us by Welsh Government (in respect of the Childcare Offer which relates solely to children of working parents), not all families will take up the offer (assuming 65% take up in the first years of the pilot).
- Within the £3.5m, £70k has been made available to provide bespoke support for children with ALN who have working parents of children with ALN.

4.5 In order to test a number of ECEC elements, the pilot will take a staged approach to implementation. Some fundamental ECEC elements will be tested in the first year and these will be built on in following years by the testing of additional elements where possible.

4.6 On this basis, the requirements of Bridgend in Year 1 will be to:

- increase the number of non-maintained settings delivering the foundation phase for 3 and 4-year-olds in Bridgend;
- provide a fair funding rate (equity with Childcare Offer);
- determine and develop a package of support for non-maintained providers moving to foundation phase provision;
- work with maintained settings (ie schools) interested in delivering the ECEC offer; and
- develop a communication and engagement plan to ensure working parents understand and are aware of their choices.

4.7 To support the pilot, BCBC will need to develop, manage and process a system for paying providers monthly as well as being able to gather monitoring and evaluation information. This will be fully funded by WG.

4.8 In order to support clarity regarding the proposed ECEC pilot, the following options have been developed (Appendix B provides further information):

<p>Option 1 ‘Do nothing’</p>	<p>The local authority does not progress the proposed pilot.</p>
<p>Option 2 ‘All for all parents’</p>	<p>The local authority provides 30 hours of provision to all parents of all 3 and 4 year-olds at any setting from the term after a child’s 3rd birthday for 48 weeks (ie 39 weeks term-time provision and 9 weeks of school holiday provision).</p> <p>The funding available from Welsh Government to support this option would be up to £3.5m per year.</p>
<p>Option 3</p>	<p>The local authority provides 30 hours of provision to working parents of</p>

<p>'All for working parents only'</p>	<p>all 3 and 4 year-olds at any setting from the term after the child's 3rd birthday for 48 weeks (ie 39 weeks term-time provision and 9 weeks of school holiday provision).</p> <p>The funding available from Welsh Government to support this option would be up to £3.5m per year.</p>
<p>Option 4</p> <p>One year scoping exercise</p>	<p>There is a fourth option open to Cabinet should they feel more time is needed to consider how the ECEC pilot would work in practice.</p> <p>The pilot could be delivered over a longer timescale, with the first year focusing more on scoping the pilot and working with settings to understand the implications on the ground.</p> <p>The specific parameters of this approach would need to be determined, but the available funding would not exceed £1m in Year 1.</p>

4.9 It is proposed that the ECEC pilot would commence at the start of the 2021-2022 school year (from September 2021). It is clear that, following Cabinet approval, we would need to undertake scoping activity associated with the agreed option prior to implementation.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is likely to be significant impact upon the policy framework and procedures. A project board will need to identify these and form an action plan to address each in turn.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 The impact on equalities implications arising from this report will depend on the selected option from those proposed. A full equalities impact assessment will be developed once a proposed option is agreed.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed and is detailed at Appendix A. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Prevention

The proposed pilot ECEC system will assist the childcare sector, including Welsh-medium provision and support the anti-poverty agenda.

Integration

Option 2 offers a universal approach to early years education and will support all children aged 3 to 4 years-old to receive an equitable offer, including those children with additional learning needs. Other options set out have differing impacts on those

who benefit from early years support. However, no child will receive less than the current offer in any of the options proposed.

Collaboration

Collaboration with partners will be key to the successful delivery of the scheme.

Involvement

Involvement will need to include a range of stakeholders including parents, childcare providers and other partners are involved in the roll out of the selected pilot ECEC system.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 ECEC will be funded at £4.50 per hour to all settings in line with the rate paid for childcare under the Childcare Offer. If future reviews of this rate result in an increased hourly rate, the amount of funding from WG will be adjusted in line with any increases.
- 8.2 WG has confirmed that the ECEC grant will be linked to achievement of project milestones and not be dependent on take up.
- 8.3 WG has estimated that 64% of families in Bridgend are eligible working parents under the current Childcare Offer.
- 8.4 Bridgend will need to understand the likely take up of the ECEC offer as not all of those who are eligible for it will seek to take it up. WG has used 65% as an estimate of future take up, as this is the national target rate for the Childcare Offer. However, this may well be higher or lower for Bridgend. WG has confirmed that the £3.5m grant offer is the ceiling offer for the grant. Therefore, if take up exceeds 65%, this may make the pilot unaffordable for Bridgend under Option 2.
- 8.5 Business models have been based on the additionality (eg parental choice over full-time provision in a maintained or non-maintained setting and additional holiday provision) of the ECEC offers over and above the current policy of BCBC (ie currently, all children receive part-time, 10 hours per week education provision from the term after their third birthday, with 30-hour provision continuing the September after their fourth birthday). Further to this, children who become 3 years of age before 1 September are offered access to a full-time education place in maintained nursery provisions. This model is currently implemented in Bridgend County Borough. The population of children used has been taken from an average of Bridgend school admissions so is also subject to change.
- 8.6 If Option 2 is the preferred option, then the nature of this option, by providing a universal offer, sets the percentage take-up ceiling where the pilot becomes unaffordable for Bridgend at 70%. This take-up level reduces further if there is a shift from parents choosing the ECEC offer to be provided in the non-maintained setting rather than in schools as the calculations have been based on additionality from current provision. This means that there would be some risk should parents decide to place their child in non-maintained rather than maintained settings (ie as the local authority would still be required to fund school nursery provision).

- 8.7 If Option 3 is the preferred option, there is minimal financial risk to BCBC as the £3.5m (per year) should cover the additional costs.
- 8.8 Under the pilot, consideration would have to be given to the treatment of the current per-pupil funding arrangements for schools. Consideration would have to be given as to whether the funding for existing early years education would be top-sliced from the school delegated budget and transferred to the private providers if parents decide to move their children from school to non-maintained settings as part of the ECEC offer.
- 8.9 It is important to note that the estimated additional cost of a universal ECEC offer for **all** children with additional learning needs (ALN) would be in the region of £500k per year. This would include the one-to-one staffing required to enable those children to access the childcare. If Cabinet were minded to select Option 2 and extend the pilot to children with ALN of non-working parents, without additional funding from WG, there is an additional risk on the affordability of this option which would have to be monitored closely.
- 8.10 WG has confirmed that additional financial support is available to local authorities to fund support for working parents with children with ALN accessing the Childcare Offer. The 2019-2020 Childcare Offer Additional Learning Needs Grant is £50k with an indicative allocation of £70k in 2020-2021. The support required for the children with ALN of non-working parents is not part of this pilot (ie there would be no additional funding specifically for this). However, as ECEC is designed to provide universal provision for all 3 and 4 year-old children, the local authority would need to approach WG for additional funding to support the needs of children with ALN from non-working parents to ensure parity of provision.
- 8.11 It is not known at this stage whether there are any capital implications, particularly for schools.
- 8.12 Although the start date for the public ECEC provision is September 2021, much of the preparatory work will be required in the months leading up to that date. The following additional pilot funding has therefore been agreed with WG to support preparatory activity leading up to the start of the 2021-2022 school year (ie September 2021):
- £50k grant to support the appointment of an ECEC Lead Officer; and
 - an administration grant (around £100k) will be provided in addition to the annual funding to cover associated costs such as engagement and communications activity and additional staffing.
- 8.13 To support the pilot, the local authority will need to develop and manage a system and process for paying providers monthly as well as being able to gather monitoring and evaluation information. The local authority would need to implement a system suitable to register service users, monitor their use of the service and support the paying of settings for the provision made. Although the national system will be fully funded and developed by WG, the system that the Council requires in the interim period (ie between now and September 2021) will be developed in-house within existing Education and Family Support Directorate resources.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- consider the four options outlined in the report; and
- select the preferred option to take forward as the pilot.

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Background papers: None

Appendix A

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

Section 1	
Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.	
<p>Long-term</p> <p>(The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)</p>	<p>1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</p> <p>Each of the proposed options for the pilot of ECEC will meet both short-term and long term needs of children and their families accessing the early years' education, while the long-term strategic implications intend to support families out of poverty and offer children the opportunity to access high quality education. In addition, childcare providers will benefit from this scheme on a long-term basis as the potential increased flexibility or potential additional numbers of children accessing provision, dependent on the option selected, will support sustainability within the sector.</p> <p>Sustainable childcare, along with developing new childcare places to meet the commitments of the Childcare Offer aspect of the ECEC system, will, in the long term, help the local authority with its statutory duty of providing sufficient childcare across the county borough for working parents and those parents training with the intention of returning to work.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> <p>(How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)</p>	<p>2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</p> <p>The delivery of the proposed pilot of ECEC, dependent on the option selected, will contribute towards support and continued development of childcare in the county borough and support the local authority in meeting its statutory duty of providing sufficient childcare for working parents.</p> <p>The ECEC pilot scheme will also support the focus on the development of Welsh-medium places which will offer more choice to parents wishing to access Welsh-medium provision.</p>
<p>Integration</p>	<p>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes</p>

<p>(Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">together?</p> <p>Economic</p> <p>The proposed options of the pilot of ECEC system with the integral Childcare Offer support for working parents focuses on encouraging parents back into work, therefore potentially reducing the numbers of children in poverty.</p> <p>Social</p> <p>Each of the proposed options for the pilot of ECEC will provide children the opportunity to access education provision across a range of settings. This universal early years' provision will offer children social environments. Working families who struggle to meet the costs of children during school holiday periods will continue to benefit with children supported by high quality provision, offering parents the opportunity to thrive in employment.</p> <p>Environmental</p> <p>Offering education provision locally, or close to a workplace, will help support the environment by reducing the carbon footprint of families travelling additional miles to a childcare provision. The focus of the local authority is to try and secure such childcare for every eligible family in the county who are seeking it. However, it is acknowledged that many families will need to access provision in other geographical areas.</p> <p>Cultural</p> <p>The proposed options for the pilot ECEC system will continue the focus on ensuring sufficient education and childcare places for those who wish to access provision in the medium of Welsh.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>(Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p>The planning phase required should be supported by a project board where stakeholders, both internal and external, would contribute to advising Bridgend County Borough Council.</p>

<p>of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p>The childcare team works effectively with external partners, particularly the childcare umbrella organisations, and this will be built upon during the implementation of the proposed pilot ECEC system in whichever option is selected.</p>
<p>Involvement (The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</p> <p>The stakeholders involved in the project board should include childcare providers and organisations, including those who support families with children who have additional learning needs, and Welsh language organisations.</p> <p>Wellbeing of the target audience/users is a strong focus, where the education and care of the child is of the utmost importance to the local authority. However, it is the choice of the parents as to what part of the proposed pilot ECEC system they access, where and when. The well-being of the parents is also a focus of this scheme, ensuring that childcare costs are not a barrier to accessing work or training.</p>

Section 2 Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).

Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The proposed options to pilot ECEC will support children’s early years’ experience of both education and childcare alongside parents in employment and those wishing to return to employment to meet the costs of childcare, which can often be seen as a barrier. It is hoped that more flexible education and funding for holiday childcare within some of the options will remove barriers and continue to allow parents to take advantage of the additional financial benefit and/or return to work.</p>	<p>The engagement and promotion of the proposed pilot ECEC system whichever option selected will be vital to ensure all parents are aware of this more flexible approach and dependent on the option selected where parents who are eligible for funded childcare in the holiday periods feel able to access the support, if they so wish.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Children and families benefiting from the proposed pilot ECEC system will be well placed to support this wellbeing goal based on the activities delivered by the range of educare providers.</p>	<p>Promotion of any of the options selected for the proposed pilot ECEC system across the County borough will assist in maximizing the benefits of the natural environment based on the activities delivered by education and childcare providers.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that</p>	<p>Dependent on the option selected the opportunity for parents to receive financial support for childcare costs to offer to reduce or remove the financial barriers to</p>	<p>The engagement and promotion of the proposed options to pilot ECEC will be vital to ensure those parents who are eligible are accessing the support, if they</p>

<p>benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>returning to work can, in many cases, benefit the health and well-being of the household, both mentally and physically.</p> <p>Uptake of early years' education in Bridgend is highly effective. Dependent on the option selected there is a potential for enhanced provision which could enable children to discover environments that they have not had experience of before, broadening their horizons and benefitting their well-being.</p>	<p>so wish.</p> <p>Evaluation of the scheme will be undertaken by both Bridgend County Borough Council officers and Welsh Government officials to measure the impact that this has had on families.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>The options set out in the report above include a proposed pilot ECEC universal scheme that supports all parents. The background of families is not relevant to eligibility in any option.</p> <p>Option 2 allows all parents both working and those not in work to meet their potential by removing the financial constraints of holiday childcare whilst at work, empowering them to remain in, extend or return to the workplace.</p>	<p>There are four options set out for consideration.</p> <p>If the option selected is not universal then only children who are in a household of working parent(s) will be able to access the funded school holiday childcare aspect of the proposed pilot ECEC system. If the household consists of two parents, both must work. If the household consists of a single parent, they must be in work.</p> <p>There are however a variety of other grants managed by the local authority's childcare team that could be considered for support of children in ineligible families to access childcare, minimising any negative impact this may have on certain families and/or communities.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-</p>	<p>Early years' provision and education is often at the centre of a community,</p>	<p>Sufficient childcare is a statutory duty of the local authority. The local authority</p>

<p>connected communities.</p>	<p>particularly if it is attached, or in close vicinity to, a school building. Communities with a range of schools and childcare provisions are often thriving and further educare development will be a focus of whichever option is selected in the proposed pilot ECEC system.</p>	<p>ensures this duty is met by focusing childcare development in areas of need and identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). The Childcare Team is well established and has staff with experience and expertise in this area, allowing the required development to be supported effectively.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>The proposed pilot ECEC options will all support greater flexibility for parents who wish to access provision in the medium of Welsh. It is a priority of the Childcare Team on behalf of BCBC to ensure that enough places are secured to meet this demand. This includes the development of four Welsh-medium childcare provisions strategically placed across the county. These developments will ensure that parents will be able to access the childcare in the Welsh language and encourage parents who have not yet made a decision to consider Welsh-medium provision.</p>	<p>Promotion and engagement is underway regarding the Cymraeg 2050 capital programme, ensuring that communities have an input into the additional services on offer in the Welsh language.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>This scheme will offer positive outcomes to the people of Bridgend and Wales. Having a thriving, successful and resourceful Bridgend and Wales will make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>Promotion and maximising take-up of the education and childcare will improve economic social environmental and cultural well-being.</p>

Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts

Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Yes	No	This will vary according to the option selected and will be considered through individual (EIAs).
Gender reassignment:	No	No	
Marriage or civil partnership:	No	No	
Pregnancy or maternity:	No	No	
Race:	No	No	
Religion or Belief:	No	No	
Race:	No	No	
Sex:	No	No	
Welsh Language:	Yes	No	This will vary according to the option selected and will be considered through individual (EIAs).

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers

Cabinet

Compiling Officers Name:

Mark Lewis

Compiling Officers Job Title:

Group Manager – Integrated Working and Family Support

Date completed:

7 February 2020

Appendix B

Early Childhood Education Care Workshop Options 21 January 2020

Option	Who is it for?	Which provision could parents choose from?	What would it cover?	What would it cost?	What are the potential benefits?	What are the potential risks?
Option 1 'Do nothing'	Status quo					
Option 2 'All for all parents' 30 hours to all parents of 3 and 4 year olds at any setting from term after their 3 rd birthday for 48 weeks	All parents – working and non-working	Any provision – non-maintained or schools for both 3 and 4 year olds	Term time and holiday provision	% take up ceiling where the pilot becomes unaffordable would be 65% - 70% excluding additional ALN costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple to communicate • Gives parents more choice • Provider neutral • Easier to administer • No children miss out. • Gives parity of access to all • Additional value to current offer is clear to WG • Delivers quickly on ECEC vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it affordable? • Cost pressures around take up/ALN/other (eg free school meals and transport) • Creates expectations for parents that are difficult to step away from • Capacity to deliver new places in non-maintained and schools limited • Schools may lose out if can't offer childcare
Option 3	Working parents	Any provision – non-maintained	Term time and holiday	Minimal financial risk to BCBC as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides savings on current offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less generous than current Bridgend offer for

<p>'All for working parents only'</p> <p>30 hours to working parents of all 3 and 4 year olds at any setting from term after their third birthday for 48 weeks</p>	<p>only – same criteria as current childcare offer</p>	<p>or schools for both 3 and 4-year-olds</p>	<p>provision</p>	<p>the £3.5m should cover the additional costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with focus of current childcare offer • Gives parents more choice • Provider neutral • Potential to change make up of provision – non-maintained start to offer early ed and schools start to offer childcare • Provides a step towards ECEC 	<p>non-working parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-working parents lose access to free school nursery provision • Parental choice may result in some providers losing children • Less children benefitting from early education
<p>Option 4</p> <p>One year scoping exercise</p>	<p>Welsh Government officials have indicated that the pilot could be delivered over a longer timescale, with the first year focusing more on scoping the pilot and working with settings to understand the implications on the ground.</p> <p>Additional funding would be provided towards the staffing and engagement costs associated with this, though this would be lower than £3.5m. The specific parameters of this approach would need to be determined, but the available funding would not exceed £1m.</p>					