

Draft Play Strategy consultation event and questionnaire  
responses

\*The numbers in brackets refer to the reference numbers we allocated to each response form\*

**Does the introduction section provide a clear and helpful explanation of why CCC have developed a Play Strategy?**

Yes (1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,20,22, 23, 24, 25)

Well set out and explains clearly and concisely the strategy that has been developed (6)

Clearly underlines the importance of play and the need for a play strategy to be implemented (10)

Yes, I also like its use of simple language terms that anyone can understand (16)

Yes quite informative (19)

Pg 8 add in Youth Centre to the list and change to 'provision such as:' (21)

Having considered the feedback for this section we have made the suggested amendments.

**Do you have any comments or feedback regarding Section 2: what is Play?**

None (1,2,3,4,5,8,9,13, 25)

Informative without being overbearing and intimidating to read (6)

N/A (7)

Yes – very important (10)

Very clear and informative (10)

In our environment the children are encouraged to learn through play (12)

Really like section 2.3 (14)

I agree with what is written (15)

Section 2 is excellent in explaining defining play (16)

It would be advantageous to emphasise it encompasses young people up to 16 at school too (19)

Appendix 1: Styles of Provision: this could have more examples to illustrate (20)

Reference the quotation on the top of page 13, also add young people to second paragraph and 3<sup>rd</sup> (21)

The importance of play for language development could be emphasised more and how adults can facilitate play and interaction (22)

Very comprehensive. An aspect of childhood being swallowed up by modern technology and not adequately encouraged by many (23)

I like Lloyd George's definition re play (24)

As a result of the responses to this section we have ensured that it is clear that play encompasses children and young people. The importance of play for language development is mentioned within section 2, however it will be explored in more detail under objective 1: Encouraging more play provision. At present we feel that Appendix 1: Styles of provision is a comprehensive list.

## Objective 1: Encouraging more Play Provision

What do you feel are the barriers children and young people with disabilities encounter when accessing play provision?

Many (1)

N/A (2,4,15)

Suitable provision – climbing apparatus is not available for older children, equipment geared towards much younger children. A wide variety of equipment to suit all ages is needed (3)

Safe adaptable play (5)

Lack of suitable equipment, poor access to rooms or limited access, people's negative attitudes in general (6)

Lack of play provision, transport to play provision, being able to play as independently as possible (7)

Physical access to facilities i.e. wheelchair access, safety of equipment and facilities (8)

Physical, bullying, teasing, feeling frustrated (9)

Not enough appropriately qualified staff not enough equipment (10)

Appropriate equipment is expensive for settings to purchase, knowledge of disability setting staff is sometimes limited, travel and transport from rural areas (11)

The barriers are negative encouragement from teachers who can't be bothered (12)

There are no play areas in the locality, which are suitable for children and young people with a disability. Even simple things like doors not being wide enough, no lifts etc (13)

No enough places allocated for children with disabilities (14)

Lack of facilities in providing adequate individual needs of children with special needs (16)

Our pupils come from a wide geographical area – lost touch with neighbourhood friends. Due to unhappy experiences left with very low self esteem (19)

Suitable activities not always provided within same location as those for able bodied e.g. adventure playground/fixed play areas (20)

Typos on pages 14-16 (21)

N/A (22)

Location of facilities, cost, parent's time (23)

Appropriate training needed, care when the play isn't structured/is free (24)

Transport to provision and parks does not cater for special needs, most need 1:1 and there are manual handling issues (25)

Access, ramps, awareness, support, transport, confidence of parents, confidence of young people/children, relationship building, safe places (Consultations)

Transport, inclusion, 'Buddy Scheme' and additional support to provide children and young people with a better experience in a mainstream activity, educating workers and young people (Consultations)

The responses to this question had many commonalities and therefore these views will be collated to a paragraph and included within the heading 'Inclusive Play'

How accessible is play provision within Carmarthenshire?

Accessible (1,4,6)

N/A (2)

Not particularly brilliant – people are having to take children by car to play areas - not good for the environment (3)

Good/getting better (5)

Transport is a huge issue for children and young people – availability and cost e.g. lack of buses on a Sunday (7)

In this part of Carmarthenshire (Teifi Valley) there is very limited play provision – parks are poor quality and few and far between. After school clubs are expensive and some people get discounts but many working parents don't (8)

It is accessible in my area but very run down (9)

Family Centres, Play Groups, Mother and Toddler groups, ICC's are free of charge (10)

Very accessible as long as parents can drive, is there a database available for new families moving into the area to access which lists all play provisions?

(11)

In our setting we have been provided with the necessary equipment we need (12)

It's very accessible but not for children with disabilities (13)

Good (14)

It is accessible if the parents have a car and can drive; we live in the country (15)

It's not very accessible and usually costs too much money for families, its only Family Centres who offer a free service (16)

Difficult to travel to Leisure Centres for some pupils. Parents are not always able to offer lifts (19)

Out of school clubs are available but lack of funding to sustain them however for many post 11 year olds transportation issues prevent attendance/use (20)

There is a lack of suitable playworkers and suitable outdoor equipment (22)

Poor (23)

Hard for rural children, in Capel Iwan you need transport to get to places (24)

Not enough play schemes, not advertised well enough in advance for working parents to organise, poor in rural areas (25)

Shortage for the 11+ age, expensive, transport, need more open access, more involvement of young people in the planning process (Consultation)

Rurality, sign posting of parks, big gaps for all ages, cost, space required, would be ideal if each community had a designated space (Consultations)

Some areas can't access transport, lack of resources and equipment with play settings, financial impact on settings (Consultations)

Play provisions shouldn't be expensive, more information needs to be available, cost of leisure facilities, service providers need to consult with children/young people and the community, transport is a barrier to accessing play (Consultations)

The majority of the responses highlight that there are issues related to transport and affordable play provision in particular within the more rural areas of Carmarthenshire. These views will be included within the transport and funding sections. Another issue highlighted is the lack of advertising and lists of provision. As part of the recommendations within this section it states that a list of play, leisure and recreational facilities within Carmarthenshire needs to be conducted. As a result of the Childcare Act 2006 section 27 a duty will be placed on Local Authorities to provide extended information, advice and assistance to parents or prospective parents. This new duty will extend the remit of the Children's Information Service to include play, sports and other recreational facilities. Furthermore, the regeneration and Leisure department within Carmarthenshire County Council have an area on the corporate website which enables members of the public to type in their postcode to find out what facilities there are in their areas.

## How accessible is bilingual play provision?

There is a lack of it (1)

N/A (2)

MYM provide excellent Welsh play provision (3)

Need to ensure bilingualism in staff, are children disadvantaged if they don't speak Welsh? (4)

Lack of adequate facilities (5)

Very accessible (6)

More is needed, often influenced by the lack of suitably qualified, bilingual staff (7)

Documentation is bilingual but language tends to be English (8)

Very (9)

Llanelli – handful of bilingual services but there are many different cultures in Carmarthenshire (10)

Several Cylch Meithrin's around, TWF and Menter Bro Dinefwr in our area (11)

In our setting more Welsh is spoken than English (12)

I think that there are a lot of bilingual play provision groups/services e.g. meithrin, day nurseries, and schools (13)

Average (14)

It is accessible for us, local swimming pool gives lessons bilingually, youth club Adran is nearby, Play scheme in holidays is bilingual, no after school club near by (15)

Very accessible, I would think especially for the English and Welsh language (16)

Not answered (19)

Usually suitable in schools (20)

Bilingualism is a challenge especially for minorities such as hearing impaired, Polish etc (22)

Poor (23)

Hard to find enough bilingual staff i.e. for Dragon Sports. It's also hard to get the importance of bilingualism across to parents who have moved to Wales from England and other countries. We used to run an after school club but we no longer have the numbers to sustain it (24)

Not very (25)

Lack of bilingual Play Leaders, confidence to use the language, down to where you live (Consultations)

Not only English and Welsh, cultural understanding, need to promote Welsh/English speaking (Consultations)

11+ Youth Service is seen as having high percentage of Welsh Speakers, early years/childcare and play <11 not a high percentage of Welsh speakers, Welsh speakers will dictate the level of bilingual provision (Consultations)

Depends on the area you live in, young people choose not to speak Welsh when accessing facilities, need to encourage staff to speak Welsh, resources such as toys, books etc are far too expensive in Welsh (Consultations)

Responses varied for this section and therefore we will include the views of respondents and also the work being done currently to address the issue of bilingualism.

What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?

Good (1)

N/A (2)

Agree, but funding needs to be at an appropriate level (3)

Funding is always an issue but the recommendations do not reflect this (4)

I think play is very important we have a children's activity centre adjacent to our setting which we use daily (5)

They will raise the standard of play provision and maintain a constant level throughout the county (6)

Do we need to be a little more specific, most of these are not really measurable (7)

This part of Carmarthenshire needs to be considered – we may be rural but still have many children that need provision that is accessible (8)  
Any improvement is good news, especially for older children (9)  
Are the recommendations going to be financially available to staff, service providers and service users (10)  
Very good and achievable (11)  
It is much better and focused on play (12)  
I think that all 3 recommendations are good as the key points are taking and focusing on meeting the needs of the children and how to go about it (13)  
We need to raise community awareness of the importance of play (14)  
It would be nice to see more open spaces to play especially in rural parks, highlighting issues of accessibility and transport is a good issue (15)  
I feel everything has been thoroughly considered even travel, which I know for many families is important (16)  
Sound positive. What about pupils with emotional, behavioural difficulties they are disabled too? (19)  
These are appropriate as long as funding becomes available to achieve them e.g. transportation costs (20)  
Not answered (22)  
For those families who do not know the area and do not have skills to find information, finding a way to get more information out to parents and children so they are aware of the full range of facilities (23)  
Easier to realise these in the towns/larger villages, it will be more of a challenge in the more rural areas where children are 'lost' (24)  
Sound good, but will rural areas be overlooked due to the small number of children residing there – there is plenty of provision in deprived urban areas (25)

Carmarthen should be Carmarthenshire, children and young people not just young people, nothing about Carmarthenshire Referral Scheme under inclusive play provision or as a partner agency, lost end of word in Menter Cwm Gwendraeth logo, Communities First logo please change or add Communities 1<sup>st</sup> Pantyffynnon (Consultations)

How are they going to be implemented, doesn't state recommendations, financial implications to implement recommendations, appropriateness of the language i.e. 13+ young people would not use the term play and therefore discourage the importance of this document, a bit woolly (Consultations)

We intend including within the recommendation section a recommendation relating to funding issues. In terms of seeing more open spaces to play, this is included within objective 3: Play in the community. Children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties are included under the section Inclusive Play and are therefore included within the recommendation relating to inclusive play. Information will be included under inclusive play provision about the work of Carmarthenshire Referral Scheme. We will ensure that the appropriate logos are included within the final document. In terms of implementation, an action plan will be produced relating to each of the recommendations. Furthermore, we are anticipating producing a child and young person friendly version of the document.

## Objective 2: Play in Schools

Does this objective cover all the play opportunities that exist within the pre school and primary school settings?

Yes (1,5,6,7,9,13,14,15,16, 23)

Opportunity to develop more with the F Ph (2)

All schools should serve the whole community, schools need grant aid to facilitate appropriate play (3)

Not sure if it covers all opportunities (4)

Yes – providing support and continuation is given – also to ensure that wider communities are aware of what is needed not just educational setting (8)

Should look at how schools can be used for out of hours provision i.e. 5-11 clubs, after school clubs etc? There is no provision for this age group and this is the age where parents worry more (10)

Great in theory as long as schools/pre schools have resources to put into practice. We do not in Llangadog Hall and are restricted with outdoor play activities – relocation would have to be considered to achieve this (to a school preferably) but funds to do this is not available (11)

We are fortunate to have in and outdoor play areas, some settings have not (12)

Not answered (19)

Yes, from my limited knowledge based in a secondary school (20)

Typos pg 18 – 19 (21)

Not answered (22)

What about Urdd (24)

Yes, but after school clubs have to be financially viable – difficult to sustain in small rural schools – subsidised (25)

You may like to make reference to the County Council's Modernising Education Provision (MEP) programme in your document (26)

Interaction between pupils needs to be encouraged, sharing good practice, staff to pupil ratio, no appropriate play areas i.e. school yards, no green fields, driving agenda in year 6 is transition to secondary therefore play sometimes not seen as an important target, schools need to be opened up after school hours to provide access to play areas to other groups (Consultations)

Most of the responses highlighted the need for schools to be used by the wider community and this is mentioned within objective 2. The information regarding Community Focused Schools will be updated and the objective will be split into pre, primary and secondary schools. We will also include information regarding MEP in the document.

Does this objective cover all the play opportunities that exist within the secondary school setting?

Yes (1,9,11,13,15,25)

N/A (2,5,12)

Sport which is organised is available at KS3 but funding needs to be increased in order for pupils to access a range of play opportunities (3)

Not sure (4)

Possibly not (6)

Very little on the secondary school age group – youth service provides extensive opportunities which aren't mentioned (7)

Providing access is available to this part of Carmarthenshire – funding available to transport children to facilities so that all schools can take advantage (8)

Yes – there are many opportunities in place for this age group (10)

Hard to say as I am not aware of what opportunities exist within secondary schools (14)

Not answered (16)

Too many older children 12-16 seek solace in computer games and computer networking (19)

Yes, illustrates lack of provision for those at secondary school age (20)

Not sure (22)

We have no experience of secondary schools at this point (23)

Urdd? (24)

Pupils to have greater control on what activities to participate in, development of training, voluntary to run extra curricular activities, using play as a tool to increase confidence, esteem and inclusion in communities, use play to increase the benefits of work i.e. NEET, should not use play/break times as bribes, playtime/break time to be more structured i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> form supervision.

**The work of the youth service within secondary schools will be included in more detail within this section.**

**What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?**

Proposals and recommendations for play are excellent (1)

Funding to support Outdoor Learning in the F Ph (2)

Too generalised – there is little commitment by CCC towards how exactly they will improve play (3)

WAG not providing enough finances to support cost of human resources to ensure comprehensive inclusion of the FPh, outdoor play, and play equipment. Llanelli could do with its own Trysordy (4)

I feel that children can learn first hand and gain experience through play (5)

Should encourage schools especially secondary schools to be more community based, and hopefully change the way they are viewed by children (6)

No recommendation specifically for the secondary age group (7)

Good as long as continued support and advice is given (8)

Especially like the idea of young people being involved in creating areas.

Hopefully this will reduce existing barriers of alcohol abuse/ anti social

behaviour and include rather than exclude these troublesome young people (9)

N/A (10)

Fantastic – as long as resources are available to settings and environment permits (11)

N/A (12)

I agree with the recommendations, think they are suitable for age and setting (13)

The recommendations are constructive, but we need to ensure that all areas within Carmarthenshire have the same opportunities (14)

Good (15)

I think that they are very good (16)

Many are good – heavy emphasis on Pre School and junior age group (19)

Community Focused Schools is the main tool for schools to achieve recommendations – funding issues (20)

I welcome the proposals and hope that there are sufficient funds for implementation (22)

Liaison is important but only works if people follow up the proposals and suggestions, encouraging involvement and the community may reveal unidentified knowledge and resources (23)

Realistic and achievable (24)

Will hopefully make a difference. Community Councils need to be involved, responsibility for provision put on the (25)

Funding fro out of school hours provisions, play shouldn't be an add on to people's role, risks and implications for head teachers to open facilities to community because of liabilities and responsibility, learning for parents in school – encourage parents to learn play methods, Carmarthenshire Play website, how much impact is this document going to have, no funding coming into schools fro training, some school buildings are not appropriate, no funding to adapt centres, play areas not big enough, recommendations are very vague they don't explain how these are going to be achieved – need to be more precise, school facilities should be available in school holidays for play schemes and holiday clubs, parents seem to be play phobic i.e. not wanting their children to play in the wet, cost of using school facilities and resources, if we are working towards the same agenda offering opportunities for 0-25 yr olds to access play why is there a shortage of resources and why such a large cost implication (Consultations)

Although the recommendations are generalised, a detailed action plan will be developed relating to these recommendations. The recommendation relating to Community Focused Schools relates to primary as well as secondary school settings.

Objective 3: Play in the community

What is your opinion about the fixed play areas within your community?

Room for more (1)

N/A (2)

Bronwydd – no fixed play areas, Llangain has fairly good play facilities therefore the balance is unjust (3)

Not utilised to their full potential. How will 20mph zones help play opportunities? (4)

Tearaways – tried to open a large indoor play activity centre but were turned down by CCC (5)

Most play areas concentrate on small number of children (under 5's). There is very little for children above this age (6)

Fair – one park has no fixed play equipment due to health and safety/insurance issues (7)

Pretty poor. Drefach Felindre has a park that is maintained by a voluntary committee but Saron has a poor quality park that needs significant improvement, limited facilities available here (8)

Run down and neglected – knock on effect of attracting litter, broken glass, dog poo etc. Keeping dogs out would be a start (9)

Limited services for play in Morfa i.e. only one park (10)

A lot of parks have been renewed, but often aimed at one age group – primary and secondary: not enough for older children to focus time on (11)

Adequate and well maintained (12)

I think they are a good idea as children are learning the recommended things and also a variety of things (13)

We have a little park for able bodied primary school children, but nothing for secondary school children (14)

We have two fixed play areas which we use, looked after by community councils. Both parks are kept tidy, but maintenance on the actual equipment is not very good – one item being broken for many years (15)

Fixed play areas are excellent but more thought should be given to protection from vandalism (16)

Carmarthen Leisure Centre very good (19)

Limited number some in need of improvement, new provision not always advertised e.g. Derwydd Play Area (20)

Typo pg 21 (21)

I live in Bronwydd and there is only one swing for outdoor play and nothing for older children (22)

Very poor. Play ground has direct access to the road so small children are vulnerable, climbing frame limits play opportunities, tennis court is locked so appears not to be used, grass infrequently cut, no apparent rescue equipment around the river (23)

We have a climbing frame that is under the community council committee on the school ground. There is also a field with goal posts behind the school that is accessible to the community outside of school hours. Some kind of cycle/roller blade path would address some of the needs of the young people in the area (24)

Poor – no play area in the area I work in (Brewery Road) or the area I live in (Ferryside) no park at all in these 2 very different areas (25)

Access to the parks is very difficult, especially for disabled children, play areas are vandalised, need to be inviting/colourful, need equipment for younger children, not suitable for everybody, what about teenagers?, people have to travel out of their communities to access fixed play areas, need to feel and look safe, lighting is needed, shelter and lighting for older children, health and safety issues within parks, on going maintenance, parents want a safe fixed play area i.e. someone keeping an eye, supervision, community volunteers need to be involved, children to take ownership (Consultation event)

Equipment in parks suitable for younger children instead of older children, give ownership to the children and young people, shelter and lighting instead of play areas, important for young people to be asked, fixed play equipment – CYCA, younger and older equipment, older children use the seating area instead of the equipment, garden areas – benches, Youth Club CYCA somewhere to chill, educate community into tolerance (Consultations)

20 mph zones will help children's play opportunities as they will enable children and young people to play safely within their communities as traffic speed is reduced and so will the potential for road traffic accidents. The responses have highlighted very mixed opinions regarding fixed play, many stating that the fixed play areas are non existent and/or poorly maintained. These concerns will be highlighted in the Strategy, however specific areas will not be mentioned. However, these responses will be seen by the relevant departments.

Have we covered all aspects of play for 0-10 year olds within your community? If not please specify.

Yes (1,5,9,10,13,15,16, 24, 25)

Not answered (2,7,19,20)

Bronwydd has no outdoor play area and there are many 0-10's living there (3)

Not sure – does this question match the information given? (4)

In our community there is nothing for children over the age of 5. A play park is all we have in our village. As we have to travel outside of the village for any other aspect the village itself falls very short (6)

There is nothing in this area fro this age group only after school club which is expensive (8)

Yes mainly, rubbish in parks and lack of bins spoil things (11)

Educational settings provide structured play, what about home settings? (12)

Need to develop the disability aspect (14)

Family Support Team does a lot of work with special needs children (22)

There are very few, so it would appear so (23)

Local parks cater for all their needs, parks need to be modified, community halls need to accommodate young children, safety flooring is very expensive, natural resources, community groups run activities for children, recycled/natural materials within the environment, age appropriate provision for small children/older children (Consultations)

Not maintained and kept, need skate parks, parks for little children/young people needed, create a sense of ownership, the transition from being a child to a teenager needs to be reflected in the play provision within the community, shelter needed for older children, young people to be part of the design development, parks are mainly for 0-7's, there are football pitches, parks are very important within the community, community halls charge too much rent, play doesn't necessarily involve having expensive equipment, need to be more creative (Consultations)

Built around children, community halls needs to be used for this age group, Play Strategy subsidise the fees for the halls, affordable venues and play for children, Should be Play and Leisure strategy, and split into 3 sections: 0-11, 11-14, 14-16 and 16+. The Play Strategy should link with the parenting strategy (Consultations)

Needs to be clearly labelled which age group, more involvement needed by children in having a say about what they want (Consultations)

At present the Play Strategy will not be split into age groups as a great deal of provision overlaps age ranges. We will include the concerns regarding cost of after school clubs and community halls, litter and provision for varying age groups within this section. The importance of consulting with children and young people is highlighted within the document.

Have we covered all aspects of play for 11-25 year olds within your community? If not please specify.

Yes (1,5,7,10,13,15,16,20, 24, 25)

Not answered (2)

More youth workers and organised clubs needed to help keep young people from the streets (3)

Not sure – does this question match the information given (4)

As above (6)

Not sure but doesn't seem to be facilities available that doesn't involve expense to parents (8)

It is covered so long as it is implemented (9)

No – no clubs or adequate places to meet for youngsters thus drink, cause nuisance because they have no focus (11)

N/A (12)

Not at all – there is no provision in Pencader (14)

Need opportunities for social interaction in safe environments, building self esteem, activity days e.g. on Cefn Sidan, Woodland projects, walks, nature watching, Llanelli Wetlands (19)

Scouts? (22)

Very few, so it would appear so (23) Ensuring maximum awareness and access will increase use of facilities (23)

They need to be given an area, section could be split into 11-15,15-18, 18-20, 21-25, older children need leisure facilities, older children could be encouraged to become volunteers, need more community places and projects (Consultations)

25 is too old for this strategy, need to consider the range of ages, (Consultations)

Children's Partnership website and Children's Information Service to have a website where you can type a postcode in to see what facilities are in the area, specific play and leisure website for Carmarthenshire, transport links to different facilities, linking other sites to the play and leisure sites, website dedicated to play, strategy needs to be in sections, what about funding for the 0-25's, what about Brownies, Guides and air cadets, need to balance funding for 0-25 yr olds (Consultations)

The regeneration and Leisure department within Carmarthenshire County Council have an area on the corporate website which enables members of the public to type in their postcode to find out what facilities there are in their areas. The responses highlighted that there is a general lack of provision for the 11-25 year old age group within communities. Therefore, these concerns will be included within this section of the document.

What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?

Good (1)

N/A (2)

Fine, but will they be implemented and is there funding? (3)

Young people don't always want to go back to their schools to play; they need their own space/building (4)

It would be nice to see safe play opportunities for the children of Carmarthen (5)

The recommendations are very positive if they can be implemented in small villages such as ours (6)

Good range of recommendations (7)

Providing the money/resources are used effectively and not wasted on employing people to push paper – good recommendation (8)

Play training is particularly important as childcare provision is underpaid and not given the importance it deserves, recognised qualifications need matching with decent play (9)

These are all good recommendations, raising awareness in the community is important, are these provisions going to be free of charge as many service providers are either outside the area or incur costs and in many cases it is the people on low income or benefits that will suffer due to affordability (10)

Great would combat a lot of anti social problems in youngsters (11)

The 6 areas of learning cover all points (12)  
I agree (13)  
The recommendations are to be praised, but we need more bodies to realise the dream (14)  
Very good (15,16)  
Youth workers who can form trusting relationships – excellent (19)  
Ambitious but certainly appropriate (20)  
Not answered (22)  
Ensuring maximum awareness and access will increase use of play facilities (23)  
Good – help needed in rural areas, information on grants available (25)  
Having some of these recommendations realised in our community would benefit our children and young people even if it is on an outreach basis with a regular timetable for each area (24)  
Need more innovative examples, more examples of natural play (Consultations)

**The majority of the responses state that the proposed recommendations are positive, however most concerns are related to how these recommendations are going to be implemented due to funding. Funding is a continuous issue and cause for concern. Our vision is that that with the employment of a regional development Co-ordinator through the Big Lottery funding we are ready to take all opportunities to access future funding to address the recommendations.**

#### Objective 4: A playwork profession

How accessible do you feel playwork training is?

OK (1)  
N/A (2,5)  
Dynamix in Swansea, but provision should be county based (3)  
No idea (4)  
Not very (6)  
Lack of info about opportunities, no clear structure for playwork training (7)  
Apart from training for the FPh I don't think training is at all accessible (8)  
Fairly accessible (9)  
Training can be accessible, but there will always be a financial burden especially to charity organisations or funded posts (10)  
Training Cylch Meithrin setting is very accessible, Carm Partnership training courses are great, cam wrth Gam with meithrin to do NVQ qualifications too (11)  
Plenty of notice given and training very well presented (12)  
Is accessible, just timing of training is difficult at times when working all day or if you have children (13)  
Average – some sections are better than others (14)  
Good (15)  
Very accessible (16)

Not answered (19)

Limited mainly due to lack of information regarding available training (20)

It is important that playworkers have incentives to further train – career structure, pay, backfill etc. The qualifications need to be meaningful and standards maintained (22)

We only work together and have not and do not intend to recruit. I would imagine the hours in which playwork occurs may cause some problems (23)

Travelling to training is an issue for students (24)

Very (25)

If you don't work in the field it is not readily available, more advertising is essential, is it highlighted as a profession in Careers Evenings, confusion regarding what qualifications enable you to do what, need a clear qualifications flowchart, WAG needs to recognise the importance of the profession and fund accordingly (Consultations)

Directory of trainers (Consultations)

Mapping of all training – collaboration recruitment of courses, centralised through the Children's Partnership, expensive, not co-ordinated, CCLD needs to be involved (Consultations)

The responses agree with the content within this objective.

What are the issues related to recruiting and retaining staff within the playwork sector?

Pay (1)

N/A (2)

Low pay, part time work, career progression and lack of jobs (3)

Low pay, lack of knowledge and understanding of the importance of well co-ordinated play opportunities, too many see it as a babysitting service for working parents (4)

N/A (5)

Money. The times of the courses, a lot of people have families and can only attend courses part time or in the evenings (6)

Poor pay, structure, development, low profile, not feeling valued (7)

N/A (8)

Levels of play and opportunity (9)

Most playwork posts are subject to funding and therefore posts can be lost, also playwork is so underpaid that they have to work two positions to earn an acceptable income (10)

Low pay for lunch time cover to get appropriate staff to encourage the right play environment. Getting Welsh speakers, with increasing demands from the FPh on Cylch Meithrin leaders – basically doing the same job as teachers but on much lower pay – anticipate not being able to keep staff in pre school due to pay and added pressure (11)

Young students won't stay as they want full time work not part time (12)

Welsh speaking hard to find, non smokers hard to find, local staff, appearance/taking pride (13)  
Very hard to recruit staff – low wages, shortage of training etc (14)  
I agree with the inability to attract welsh speaking leaders, I am a welsh learner, I got the job only as they had tried to get a welsh speakers, but unable to due to lack of interest or not qualified to Level 3 in childcare (15)  
Probably over worked due to staff shortages and funding and underpaid (16)  
Not answered (19)  
Pay, funding issues prohibit development of facilities to ensure financial viability (20)  
Evidence for 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph pg 23, need to add in more about CPCKC, get rid of bottom bullet points on pg 23 also see comments on pg relating to Playwork (21)  
Not answered (22)  
We only work together and have not and do not intend to recruit. I would imagine the hours in which playwork occurs may cause some problems (23)  
Hours i.e. evenings and weekends, does the pay attract the right kind of people? (24)  
Poor pay (25)

The title of the profession needs to be looked at, pay is an issue, and male playworkers are rare, seen as work experience rather than a profession, status, hours, short term funding, unrealistic hours, no job security (Consultations)

Unsociable hours, poor pay, limited hours available, low status; taken for granted, qualifications do not reflect pay

All responses agree with the issues highlighted within this section.

What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?

Good (1)  
N/A (2)  
Fine, but will they be implemented? (3)  
Appear to fit the objective (4)  
I would like to see contribution from local settings (5)  
Very positive (6)  
Good (7)  
Make sure money is spent appropriately and playworkers are available in all areas of Carmarthenshire (8)  
'Playwork as a Profession' – YES! (9)  
I feel that many aspects of the playwork profession have been covered, playworkers are underpaid and hours are low (10)  
Excellent – not sure if achievable (11)  
In our setting we have facilities to enable to learn through play and structured 6 areas of learning (12)  
Agree and should be implemented and practiced at all times (13)  
Need to offer training (14)

The proposed recommendations are good. I am going to a play workshop with Geiriau Bach, to give ideas of bilingual play, this is what we need (15)  
Salary should be included so that playworkers feel valued and recognised for the hard work they do – the salary should reflect the post (16)

Not answered (19)

Suitable (20)

Not answered (22)

They appear quite comprehensive (23)

Agree (24)

Development on personal levels needs improving, along with improving status of play work – all in recommendations – GREAT (25)

Need to highlight pay issues and the need for WAG to recognise that more funding is needed (Consultations)

Free playwork training; make training more accessible, and one qualification to encompass all settings (Consultations)

All responses agreed with the recommendations

## Objective 5: Managing risk and parental concern

What play opportunities are children and young people missing out on due to fear of injury and harm?

A lot (1)

Play with natural elements, challenging physical environment – climbing trees, building dens (2)

Physical play – climbing frames, unsupervised or discreetly supervised play (3)

Many parents do not have the time to watch children playing outdoors (4)

Lots of opportunities parents aren't happy letting children out of doors (5)

Outdoor adventure experience opportunities (6)

Some parks have removed equipment due to health and safety fears. No funding to replace equipment (7)

As documented in booklet (8)

Freedom to just go out and enjoy the wide open spaces, to wander and appreciate, to kick a ball or just run about and shout, cycling as roads are too dangerous (9)

Using clubs, parks and other provisions with peers and having the opportunity to express themselves to their full potential in an environment where they feel comfortable (10)

A lot, blame culture has got out of control; children need certain amount of risk in order to learn how to deal with it, trips, outdoor walks etc for fear of accident and claim leave children missing out (11)

None in our setting (12)

Children do miss out on a lot of play opportunities for fear of injury and harm; such as jumping from high surfaces, climbing things, exploring textures, materials outdoors (13)

More and more parents are worried about the influence/dangers within the community; some children never play outside (14)

Playing freely outside without adult supervision (15)

The obvious one is that parents won't allow their children to venture out to their local park for fear of stranger danger (16)

Not answered (19)

Physical activities such as outdoor play areas, adventure grounds. Trips to more unusual activities – rock climbing, canoeing etc (20)

Parents need reassurance re safety and info on the importance of promoting independence (22)

A variety but fears are often unfounded, such minimal risk (23)

Having peace and quiet to be independent in play – learning through experiences (24)

Outdoor play is a concern for various reasons – parents need to accompany their children 'just in case' (25)

Unsupervised, trust, no element of danger, gangs, growing up too quickly, not allowed to get dirty, child led/imaginative/unstructured/outdoor, children expect to be entertained, open spaces, parental awareness of dangers of internet, SN Sites, texting, more traffic, no ball games (Consultations)

Play in the dark, in the streets, unsupervised, out of sight, natural water streams due to cleanliness, risk of drowning, climbing trees or climbing in general (Consultations)

Railway lines, frozen lakes, hide and seek in the forest, climbing trees above rivers, mud wrestling, time constraints (mobiles make children more accessible to their parents, stranger danger, not allowed to be children, perceived as being safe at home but are they really when they are chatting to strangers on the web and texting etc, need to experience pain/have accidents to know not to do it again/build resilience (Consultations)

All of the responses agreed with the information within objective 5

What are the issues facing play providers in relation to risk and parental concern?

Many (1)

A safe, adequately supervised environment which is insured for injury (2)

Threat of litigation (3)

Training is needed to foresee problems, insurance needs to be total, the graph would be better if it showed 2005-2008 (4)

Communication is vital – ability to provide best outcome (5)

Parents fear, not enough staff to provide cover (6)

Fear of legal cases, claims for compensation. Parents not realising the importance of children being able to take risks, negative views in the media (7)

Less likely to take risks due to fear of complaints/injury (8)

Taking responsibility for another persons' child is a huge task, less emphasis needs to be put on risk assessing and compensation claims and more acceptance that accidents can happen, but is all part of healthy play and learning. I don't mean sending kids out alone, I mean accepting some risks (9)

Providers are limited in facilities, money, staff and appropriate training in some cases for the parents/carers to feel that when their child is in the care of the provider they are in a safe environment and are being well looked after are gaining knowledge and experiences that shape their future (10)

All parents are different, but some are over cautious and don't want any risks for child and will claim if something goes wrong, not just for physical play but is child has skin reaction to something for e.g. just makes play providers very cautious. Parents need to be educated on importance of play and independence (11)

None in our setting (12)

General safety for children in their work setting to prevent accident and harm to children (13)

Gain parental confidence that we have been trained to look after children and to keep them safe (14)

Risk assessments, insurance claims (15)

Getting parents to realise where children are concerned accidents can happen (16)

Not answered (19)

Equipment needs to be updated/maintained, insurance, staffing – qualified, CRB's etc (20)

They need clear guidelines on physical contact etc and the ability to reassure anxious parents (22)

Finding a balance between enabling play opportunities that challenge but pose a minimal risk. The risk of being sued is now there although uncommon. For many it is easier not to take the risk when in reality if we did that no one would do anything (23)

If there is an accident there is always blame involved, it's hard for some parents to accept that accidents happen (24)

Health and Safety Policies adhered to (25)

Health and Safety, Litigation/Blame culture, parental pressure, and bonfire night cancelled due to insurance being too expensive (Consultations)

All reponses agreed with the information within objective 5

What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?

Good (1)

Adequate funding to maintain a good level of staffing and equipment (2)

Do not go far enough – more playworkers need to be trained locally and more jobs should be available (3)

Match the objective (4)  
 Important to have someone in charge of play – its very important (5)  
 The recommendations are positive and will hopefully bring parents on board and make them less fearful (6)  
 Parental awareness – need to stress importance of taking risks, so children develop their own guide as to what's safe/not, make more appropriate decisions (7)  
 Good (8)  
 Good – children don't need wrapping in cotton wool and sat in front of the TV (9)  
 Covered many points, parents and carers need to be shown that what is offered will benefit their child in the long run and this can be difficult to do, how will this be done? (10)  
 Very good (11)  
 None (12)  
 I agree with what is being recommended and working towards meeting CSSIW minimum standards is important (13)  
 It's important that we all reach the same standards (14)  
 Good (15)  
 They are ok but there could be more recommendations (16)  
 Not answered (19)  
 Needs to include raising awareness of facilities available in local area (20)  
 Not answered (22)  
 More knowledge in relation to the numbers of accidents may help parents and care providers to evaluate risk more effectively (23)  
 Agree (24)  
 Good (25)

How will we raise parental awareness?, teacher training, need to raise understanding of the Foundation Phase, National Play Day, get the strategy out to the general public, inappropriate photo of boy using a chisel (Consultations)

Third bullet point incorrect, working needs to be changed, FITT needs to comply with ROSPA (Consultations)

Not show parents but remind them, leaflets/posters endorsed by Children's Partnership, break strategy down into key stage areas/age groups, pg 23 a good practice example is Llwynhendy bit misleading as Llwynhendy were not the first providers of open access play (Consultations)

**The majority of the responses agreed with the recommendations**

## Objective 6: Play across Carmarthenshire

How important is it that the Local Authority, Voluntary and Statutory sectors work together to develop play opportunities?

Important (1)

N/A (2)

Very important in order to consider everyone's needs (3)

All involved in promoting play should have a voice or be included (4)

People need to get together to see what is missing in the area and to do the best for children (5)

It is crucial that these sectors work together to provide the highest, safest possible standard of care that can be achieved (6)

Crucial, the play strategy will not meet many of the recommendations unless we work together. Also, vital that departments such as parks/planning/schools within the local authority work together (7)

Very important to ensure all areas are treated equally and that our rural area is not neglected (8)

Very (9)

It is paramount that all organisations work extremely closely to develop play opportunities as this is rightfully a child's entitlement (10)

Extremely, working together more likely to achieve aims and objectives and give different views (11)

Very important as impact from all concerned will benefit the children (12)

I think it's very important that all the local authority work together to help make play provision better and more accessible (13)

If we can bring everyone to work together the play opportunities will improve and succeed (14)

Very important (15)

Very important (16)

Very important, make best use of all resources (19)

Essential (20)

Imperative and don't forget health professionals such as Speech Therapists, OT's, physios (22)

It will provide a wider base of knowledge and ideas, consultation with wider community could lead to a wider take up of opportunities provided (23)

Share ideas, budgets and offer the best opportunities possible (24)

Vital – information sharing (25)

All responses agree that it is very important that all sectors work together

What is your opinion of the proposed recommendations?

Good (1)

N/A (2)

Fine if they are implemented and if young people benefit – working groups do not necessarily improve provision (3)

One post for all this? (4)

N/A (5)

Positive and very child friendly, taking into account what children need, not what adults think the children need (6)

Good (7)

Good – provided that they are carried out (8)

Good as long as young people are consulted along the way (9)

Working in partnership is extremely important and there are so many providers in Carmarthenshire that a substantial change can be achieved by working together (10)  
Fantastic – covers all aspects (11)  
Good that they are structures (12)  
They are all good recommendations and will help to develop play provision (13)  
Very good (14)  
Good (15)  
Very good (16)  
Good. What about working with the Police too? (19)  
Correct as long as Play Officers give equal attention to older children included (11-25 years) (20)  
Not answered (22)  
The seem great but with one play officer will they not be over worked (23)  
Agree (24)  
Good (25)

All responses agree with the recommendations.

## General

What could be added to the strategy to make it more useful?

None (1)  
N/A (2)  
Research report on existing provision, future planned provision giving geographical reference (3)  
I don't think some of the questions in section 2 an d3 match the information given in those sections (4)  
N/A (5)  
No (6)  
N/A (7)  
N/A (8)  
Educating parents to understand the importance of play for their children (9)  
I feel that you have covered a substantial amount, and the booklet was very helpful (10)  
Can't think of anything, needs to be an ongoing process to be developed as things put into practice and amended if and when needed – some problems won't arise until this is put into practice (11)  
How to encourage play at home (12)  
No (13)  
No (14)  
N/A (15)  
Not answered (16)  
Not answered (19)  
Some reassurance that results of strategy would be followed up with information on available funding (20)

The importance of early year's provision for language development which underpins all other learning. Playworkers need to have the skills to promote language through play (22)  
Consultation with parents and the community to encourage greater participation and impact (23)  
It's inclusive (24)  
Inclusive play areas – difficult? But essential strategy seems very good – time for action (25)

Most responses agreed that nothing needed to be added

Do you agree that the language used within the Strategy is accessible to all?

Yes (1,2,3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,19,23, 24, 25)  
There will always be some that will not fully access the information in the document; the language on the whole is satisfactory (4)  
Yes – child friendly version? (7)  
Most of it (16)  
Those within education- yes used to such language. Many parents would find it quite wordy too formal (20)  
It is long so a summary of the main points would be useful (22)

An executive summary of the main points will be developed along with a child/young person friendly version

Are there any other comments on the Strategy that you would like to make?

No (1)  
N/A (2)  
Hopefully its implementation will bring about improved play facilities, improving health etc for all under 25's (3)  
Schools provide a great deal of opportunities for developing play and learning through play – yet grants are not available to them except on limited bases through competitions etc. No finance forthcoming from WAG or authority for resources etc to improve play through the FPh. Should this not be a priority? (4)  
N/A (5)  
No (6)  
N/A (7)  
Please make sure that this area of Carmarthenshire i.e. Teifi Valley esp. Drefach Felindre and Saron areas that have a lot of children are given the support and provisions that are available. There is nothing much here at the moment (8)  
No (9)  
No comments (10)  
No (11)

No (12)

No (13)

No (14)

Well set out and helpful (15)

This all seems very ideal but we all know we don't live in an ideal world, but if we can achieve most of it by working together then that will be excellent (16)

Not answered (19)

No (20)

Speech and language therapists are very knowledgeable re play and are skilled in training others on facilitating communication through play (22)

It is great to see play so predominately on the agenda (23)

I hope that the recommendations will be realised (24)

N/A (25)

None of the comments made entailed making changes to the document

## General

'Well done – it looks excellent' (17)

'...some of my responsibilities lie in the field of the NEET cohort in the Carmarthenshire area (i.e. those Not in Education, Employment and Training, particularly those in the 16-19 age group), and while there are between 8 and 12% of young people in the County who are currently disengaged from education, training and work, perhaps it may be worth your consideration in addressing part of this problem through the Play Strategy. You will understand that areas like Llanelli have a high number of households, where there hasn't been anyone in gainful employment for 2 or 3 generations, and where the culture of attainment is virtually non-existent. Do you feel that the play strategy has a part to play in this? Could restoring the work ethic to communities become an objective of the Play Strategy?' (18)

Pg 21, The Youth Service, bullet point 1 – line 3 spelling mistake

More pictures of young people not children.

14-25 year olds would not consider the Play Strategy to be something that they are involved in.

Page 16 no title on recommendations, spelling mistake on point 3

How will the risk assessment issues be addressed?

What are your plans to consult with 18-25 yr olds?

Do you think the Play Strategy would have more of an impact if it was divided into specific ages e.g. 0-11, 11-25 or 0-14 and 14-25?

What do we have to do to access Big Lottery funding? Is it a bidding process?

How will it work?

Possible title:

'Children and young People in Carmarthenshire: A play, leisure and social strategy'

We agree that the Play Strategy has a role to play in restoring the work ethic to communities, however the Play Strategy alone cannot do this. We feel that the Play Strategy will implicitly contribute to restoring the work ethic as it targets children and their families from a very young age and aims to provide play opportunities that will increase confidence and self esteem in children and young people and thus enabling them to play a more positive role within their communities. However, we do not feel that the Play Strategy alone will be able to achieve restoring a work ethic directly. Spelling mistakes will be corrected and a cross section of photographs representing the range of ages will be used. In relation to consulting with the 18-25 year old age group, Coleg Sir Gar and Trinity college were approached but due to unforeseen circumstances could not take part in the consultation process. Information will be available at the launch regarding accessing money from round 2 Big lottery funding.

#### Other changes

A timescale will be included on the cover of the document to coincide with the timescales within the Carmarthenshire Children and Young People's Plan. The section about Language and Play within Objective 2 Play in schools will be moved to objective 1 Encouraging more play provision.