



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form

Local Authority: Denbighshire County Council

Responsible Officer: Dawn Anderson

Job title: Childcare and Play Development Manager

Date of completion: June 2025

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form

As well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) will enable the following:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan, which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

This template is a technical tool to support a corporate appraisal of the matters that need to be considered as set out in the [Statutory Guidance](#). It is set out in themes which allow the local authority to assess the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and [Statutory Guidance](#):

- Matter A: Population
- Matter B: Providing for diverse needs
- Matter C: Space available for children to play
 - Open spaces
 - Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces
 - Playing fields
- Matter D: Supervised provision
 - Playwork provision
 - Structured recreational activities
- Matter E: Charges for play provision
- Matter F: Access
 - to space/provision
 - to information; publicity; events
- Matter G: Securing and developing the playwork and the play workforce

- Matter H: Community engagement and participation
- Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out within the [Statutory Guidance](#).

The criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which local authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status columns (Previous PSA RAG status and Current PSA RAG status)

Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

Criteria fully met.	Green - Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Amber -Partially met
Criteria not met.	Red - Not met

Theme: Population

This theme relates to:

Matter A: The number of children in respect of each age range within its area

Matter B: The needs of children from different cultures and backgrounds within its area

Matter E: Whether there is a charge for play provision and where there is a charge

Local Authority Criteria reference numbers 1 to 21

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data of children aged 0-17 used locally to plan for providing opportunities to play. Information included considers:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

The following tables show what has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since the last Play Sufficiency Assessment completed in 2022.

Information from StatsWales and the 2021 Census is used to gain data and analyse demographic trends as demonstrated in the following tables.

Year	Overall Population
2021/22	96,047
2022/23	96,602
2023/24	97,156

The population of Denbighshire has steadily increased at an even rate in the last three years from 2021/22 to 2023/24 from 96,047 to 97,156, representing an increase of 1,109 people which is more than double the increase of 506 from the previous three years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 as reported in the last Play Sufficiency Assessment in 2022. This would indicate that population is expected to continue to grow at a steady rate as demonstrated over the last six years and there is little evidence of an expected decline in the population in the county.

Age Cohort	Resident Population 2021/22	Resident Population 2023/24	Number change 2021-2023/24
0 – 1 years	1,855	1,702	-153
2 years	945	932	-13
3 – 4 years	1,954	2,006	+52
5 – 7 years	3,166	3,102	-64
8 – 11 years	4,474	4,414	-60
12 – 17 years	6,788	7,123	+335
Total 0 - 17	19,182	19,279	+97

The 12 to 17 year old group shows the biggest increase out of all of the child age groups which is reflective of the most increased group in previous years. This year we also see an increase in the 3 to 4 year old age group which would reflect the slight increase in births during the Covid Pandemic in 2020.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority/populationestimates-by-localauthority-age>

Ethnicity	Number of Pupils aged 5 years and over
White British	12,835
Traveller	5
Gypsy	5
Roma	10
Any Other White Background	310
White and Black Caribbean	75
White and Black African	55
White and Asian	90
Any Other Mixed Background	200
Indian	80
Pakistani	30
Bangladeshi	35
Any Other Asian Background	45
Caribbean	0
African	25
Any Other Black Background	0
Chinese or Chinese British	5
Any Other Ethnic Background	115
Unknown or Not Stated	45

The number of children aged 5 or over by local authority, region and ethnicity for 2023/24. White British pupils make up the largest number of pupils in Denbighshire by ethnicity with 12,835 recorded for the year 2023/24. By contrast pupils from Traveller, Gypsy, Roma and Chinese or Chinese British backgrounds show the lowest numbers of pupils in their respective groups with 5 pupils or over in each. In comparison to the groups reported on during the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessment, the ethnic groups for Any other White background, Any other Mixed background, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Any other Asian background and African have seen an overall increase across the groups of 180 from 545 to 725.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Ethnicity-National-Identity-and-Language/pupils5andover-by-localauthority-ethnicbackground>

Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
First language other than English and Welsh in Pupils aged 5 years and over	483	594	654

The first language of pupils aged 5 years and over other than English or Welsh has increased by 160 from 483 during 2021/22 to 654 during 2023/24. This increase is comparable to the data provided in the previous ethnicity table showing an increase of 180 in the ethnicity groups listed within the narrative.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Ethnicity-National-Identity-and-Language/pupilsaged5andoverfirstlanguageotherthanenglishwelsh-by-localauthorityregion-year>

Skill Category	Welsh Speaking Pupils aged 5 years and over in 2021/22	Welsh Speaking Pupils aged 5 years and over in 2023/24
Fluent in Welsh	2,579	2,580
Can Speak Welsh but Not Fluently	6,174	5,985
Cannot Speak Welsh/Information Not Obtained	5,017	5,184

The fluent Welsh Language skills of pupils aged 5 years and over has remained at a consistent rate from 2021/22 to 2023/24 with an increase of 1. The skill level of pupils who can speak Welsh but not fluently has decreased during the same period by 167 from 6,174 to 5,985. This decrease also reflect against the 180 increase in the previous data table for those who's first language is neither English or Welsh.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Welsh-Language/abilityspeakwelshpupils5andover-by-localauthorityregion-category>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
1	The play needs of children of all ages are understood and provided for	New for 2025	Green	<p>The Play Ranger Team has a sound understanding of the play needs of children of all ages and ensures they are recognised, respected and well provided for. Staff understand that children learn and develop best when they are free to choose their own play activities, explore their interests and manage their own risks. Staff are skilled in observing and responding to children’s play without unnecessarily directing it and continually consults and listens to the voice of children during sessions and receiving feedback. Play sessions are child initiated and led and are adapted whenever necessary to ensure the needs of all children are met.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service deliver an open access peripatetic play service in various locations across the county during school holidays and also sessions in some locations afterschool during term time. The service is extremely well received and popular with children, young people and their families right across the county. During 2022 the service had over 22,000 attendances.</p> <p>Play Rangers have a sound understanding of the Playwork Principles and how to implement</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>them within their sessions. Play Rangers understand and advocate for children's rights as set out in the UNCRC.</p> <p>Denbighshire's Play Ranger Service, Conwy County Borough Council Play Team and Christchurch CP School in Rhyl worked in partnership to deliver a targeted project for young people aged 11+ in Rhyl, Penmaenmawr and Tan Lan, Old Colwyn. There was a total of 138 attendances at the session in Rhyl including young people from 2 high schools and 3 primary schools.</p> <p>The sessions in Rhyl were based at The Oak Tree Centre Integrated Children's Centre using the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and Christchurch School Playing Fields.</p>		
2	The play needs of children living in areas of deprivation and low income families are understood and provided for	Green	Green	<p>The Local Authority uses census information and the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) for information.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service work in partnership with Families First and Flying Start to provide play opportunities in Flying Start core areas.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
3	The play needs of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	Amber	Amber	<p>The Play Ranger Service deliver peripatetic open access play sessions in a variety of locations all year round across the county. These areas have been identified to ensure all areas are not too far from where the sessions are offered and are easy to access and maximise accessibility for all children. Sessions are delivered in highly used areas of play by children and young people and are familiar play spaces. Collaboration work takes place alongside Families First and Flying Start, Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, Town and Community Councils, North Wales Police, Children's Services, Conwy County Borough Council Play Development Team, Local Schools and Community Partnerships.</p> <p>There is an established partnership group with Canolfan Ni and Denbighshire Leisure Ltd to provide meaningful play opportunities in the South of Denbighshire.</p> <p>Quality outdoor play spaces are present in many rural villages providing children with safe spaces to play.</p>	Reduction in funding has impacted on expanding the Play Ranger Peripatetic Play Service so that more Play Sessions could be delivered in more locations and to also help areas who experience pockets of anti-social behaviour from children and young people.	More revenue funding to cover staffing costs to provide additional sessions afterschool and during school holidays.
4	The play needs of Welsh	Amber	Amber	All Local Authority owned play areas have bilingual information signs.	Difficulties in recruiting Welsh	Recruitment drive to

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	language speaking children are understood and provided for			<p>The Play Ranger Service work in conjunction with Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych to help provide bilingual play opportunities and support events.</p> <p>The Local Authority holds a specific web page in Welsh for the Play Ranger Service. https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/cy/hamdden-a-thwristiaeth/gwasanaeth-ceidwad-chwarae/gwasanaeth-ceidwad-chwarae.aspx</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service 'Let's Play Out' timetable is published bilingually and circulated to all schools so all children have easy access to session information in their local area. Family Information Service share bilingual information on social media platforms and signpost enquiries to the Play Ranger Service.</p> <p>The Family Information Service provide training and resources to play providers to enhance the use of Welsh language in settings.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service has 1 Welsh Speaker with all other members of the team</p>	speaking staff to the sector	encourage Welsh speaking staff into the sector, working in collaboration with North Wales Regional Partnership Board, WeCare Wales and Social Care Wales.

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>able to speak incidental Welsh during sessions.</p> <p>The Denbighshire Leisure Ltd Community Sport team have 2 Welsh speakers, so all sessions are offered bilingually.</p> <p>Urdd Gobaith Cymru use Leisure centres in Denbighshire County to run multi-sport, sport specific sessions and Holiday provision.</p> <p>The sessions are aimed mainly at children from 3 – 11 years of age and promote physical literacy through the use of the Welsh Language. Examples:</p> <p>Urdd Gymnastics club – weekly gymnastics club</p> <p>Urdd Netball club – weekend provision of Netball sessions for Primary children</p> <p>Holiday Provision – Rhyl Leisure Centre. In partnership with WRU offer Fit, Fed, Fun Session</p>		
5	The play needs of ethnic	Amber	Green	All services for children and young people provided by the Local Authority are respectful		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	minority children are understood and provided for			<p>to the needs of children from different cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>The Local Authority is committed to celebrating diversity and promoting equality in everything we do, to improve the quality of life for everyone living, working and visiting Denbighshire.</p> <p>The Local authority has an extensive equal opportunities policy which is underpinned with the delivery of the vision for the Play Ranger Service.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service 'A Vision for Play in Denbighshire' commits to supporting the core Aim 4 of Welsh Government's Seven Core Aims for Children and Young People and also Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p> <p> Vision for Play in Denbighshire 2017.c</p> <p>Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027 sets out what we want to achieve for the people and communities of Denbighshire over</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>the next 5 years and to deliver the “Denbighshire We Want” and incorporates all of the equality, diversity and human rights activities taking place throughout the council. Equality and diversity is embedded throughout all services in the Council.</p>		
6	<p>The play needs of Gypsy Traveller children are understood and provided for</p>	Red	Amber	<p>There are no Local Authority hosted sites for Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities in Denbighshire. Whilst the Local Authority continues to work to find suitable solutions, the Council acknowledges that temporary sites will be set up on different land within the county. The Local Authority understands that any future plans for Gypsy Roma Traveller sites will ensure play needs are provided for.</p> <p>A private residence in Rhyl put in planning for 7 pitches on private land which was initially rejected but following an appeal the rejection was overturned and approved however the site has no play facilities. The site is located a 2-minute walk from Coronation Gardens which is Local Authority owned public open place space with extensive grounds, football fields, climbing frames and park.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>The Play Ranger open access play sessions are open to all children and young people in Denbighshire and welcomes GRT children and families to join in the sessions.</p>		
7	<p>The play needs and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for</p>	Amber	Amber	<p>There are well-known processes for identifying play needs for children with disabilities e.g. Disability Well-being Navigators, Families First, Specialist schools. Good relationships built between local authority and play providers.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team is led by an Accessible Play Coordinator who ensures the services is fully inclusive and accessible for all children. If required, 1 to 1 additional adult support is provided by Holiday Support Assistants. There are a range of integrated activities on offer. Close working with the Disability Wellbeing Navigators to signpost and identify the needs of children to ensure relevant activities are on offer.</p> <p>Open access play is welcoming and has plenty of different activities to support children. Various venues throughout Denbighshire including rural areas. Staff at open access play approachable and supportive of young people who attend.</p>	<p>Lack of support and guidance for parents and providers for children to access out of school provision once reaching full time school</p>	<p>The local authority to review the support mechanisms in place for out of school providers as part of our Early Years Review and Restructure so that support and guidance is consistent for children who require it to access out of school and holiday provision which is reflective to</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>The Play Ranger Service deliver accessible play sessions in Ysgol Tir Morfa, Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and Tyr Ysgol – the special education schools located in Rhyl and Denbigh. The provision has extended to delivering to all children within the schools and to promote and support the children to attend the open access play sessions delivered in the community as the children and young people are familiar with the staff in the Play Ranger team and they are familiar with the needs of the children.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team completed an audit during early 2025 of play spaces across Denbighshire which included accessibility and disabled friendly equipment. This information will build a wider picture on the new Out and About Website hosted by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board due</p> <p>The Integrated Families First and Flying Start Programme (IFFFS) commissions a Holiday Activities Project – managed by the Accessible Play Coordinator project to arrange 1 to 1 sessional support for children with additional needs and disabilities to attend play</p>	<p>Lack of accessible and inclusive play parks and play areas</p> <p>Lack of 1 to 1 support staff for children with additional learning needs</p>	<p>the support they receive to access education provision to ensure the play needs of all children with disabilities or additional learning needs are understood and provided for.</p> <p>Funding to improve accessibility and inclusive equipment in play parks and play areas</p> <p>Funding for support staff for out of school and play sector.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>and leisure activities during school holidays.</p> <p>IFFFS also supports the Foundation Phase ALN team to ensure access to Disabled Play.</p> <p>Flying Start childcare support officers ensure that there are sufficient play activities in settings for all children including those with additional and emerging learning needs</p> <p>There is a range of inclusive and/or disability specific activities across the county to participate in which include Swimming, Trampolining and Wheelchair Basketball.</p> <p>There is opportunity for local coaches to access Free Level 1 Disability Inclusion Training through Disability Sport Wales. This training provides an introduction to inclusive practice and an understanding of the theory behind it. This course is aimed at level 1 coaches and beyond who are looking to make sport and physical activity sessions more inclusive.</p> <p>Stand Together for Additional Needs & Disabilities (STAND) produced a report highlighting the lack of accessible and inclusive playparks in Denbighshire which has</p>	<p>at mainstream play activities. Shortfall in appropriate activities, that meet the needs of more complex children. Rising number of children who require 1 to 1 support.</p> <p>Address accessibility gaps as identified in the audit of play space once the Out and About website goes live to provide more accessible play spaces and opportunities across a broader area of</p>	<p>Additional funding and recruitment drive to increase the Holiday Support Assistants.</p> <p>Work in partnership with relevant departments once the play spaces have been identified and ascertain what adaptations or equipment is needed to improve accessibility for disabled</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>resulted in DCC seeking funding to provide a pilot inclusive playpark in Ruthin with plans to provide a second in Rhyl in September.</p> <p>Families supported by STAND report there is a lack of affordable disability inclusive sessions in the school holidays and swimming sessions that their children can access.</p> <p>Where possible and funding permitted STAND try to offer one off activities and family days working in partnership with the Local authority and Denbighshire Leisure.</p> <p>It is important to note that many adults with disabilities often have a desire to access play facilities due to their learning age and parks should be accessible for all ages.</p> <p>Denbighshire do offer outdoor free gym equipment which many of our family's access.</p> <p>Training for staff would be useful on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating inclusive environments for children with additional needs. • Understanding the needs of children in disabilities 	Denbighshire.	children or those with additional learning needs.

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Children and Young People who present with significant needs that impact on their ability to access play opportunities are referred for a Social Services assessment and, if eligible, may be able to access additional support such as a Personal Assistant or specialists Play services for children with complex disabilities of health needs. The local authority currently commission 2 specialist services for children who are unable to access universal provision, even with support – a monthly Saturday Sensory Club and an Out and About School Holiday Club. Both are registered child daycare providers with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).</p> <p>The Pre-School Outreach team work closely with pre-school settings to provide support and advice to enable inclusive environment, and experiences.</p> <p>The latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 identified through consultations with parents and providers that families with children who have additional needs or disabilities, affordability and lack of different childcare provision were listed as the main barrier to childcare. One respondent wrote</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				that more support is needed for the childcare sector to help with children needing one to one care or support for strategies to access out of school provision, with another citing insufficient staff numbers to provide the care required to meet the needs of all children with additional needs or disabilities. It was identified that once children reach full-time school age, for those to access out of school and holiday provision with relevant support which has previously been in place either in school or at a pre-school/nursery provision, the support and guidance ends when accessing out of school provision thus proving difficult for parents and settings to receive the relevant support and guidance.		
8	The play needs and support needs of children with additional learning needs are understood and provided for	-	-	Duplicate of matter 7 – see evidence given in ref. 7	-	-

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
9	The play needs of girls are understood and provided for	New for 2025	Green	<p>The Local Authority understands the importance of the play needs of girls and ensures that these are provided for during play opportunities.</p> <p>The Play Rangers offer inclusive sessions and adapt activities as chosen by girls who attend if needed. If Girls only sessions were requested, these would be delivered by the service.</p> <p>One of the Denbighshire Leisure Limited Community Sports team priorities is to target girls in Denbighshire. The team have a good understanding of the play needs of girls.</p>		
10	The play needs of children in emergency or temporary accommodation are understood and provided for	New for 2025	Amber	<p>The homeless prevention team source play equipment and resources for citizens in temporary accommodation. The team have also supported families in Temporary Accommodation by providing vouchers to attend the local play centre vouchers and vouchers to attend SC2 and TAG active during the school holidays.</p> <p>Family Information Service offer short term and emergency funding for children to access play opportunities in registered childcare and play providers.</p>	Not enough collaboration between services to ensure a greater range of play opportunities on offer for those in emergency or temporary accommodation.	More collaboration work between services and departments.

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
11	The play needs of LGBTQ+ children are understood and provided for	Amber	Green	<p>The Youth Service continues to signpost to and promotes West Rhyl Young People's Project that provides targeted support across Denbighshire for children and young people, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and those who aren't sure through their Viva Project.</p> <p>The Youth Service works with young people who identify as LGBTQ+ through targeted support to meet the needs of the individual/group as well as universal provision and the promotion of inclusiveness in all provision i.e. activity supporting Pride. In addition, in 2024/25 the Youth Service supported the Urdd with funding to provide Welsh Language LGBTQ+ support in rural areas of Denbighshire and have funded over 30 LGBTQ+ specific Youth Club sessions in the south of the county.</p> <p>Addressing the shortfall from the previous report, in 2024/25 all Youth Service staff attended LGBTQ+ Awareness training.</p>		
12	The play needs of asylum	New for 2025	Green	The Refugee Resettlement team provide safe, inclusive accessible opportunities for asylum	Barriers include language and	The criteria for the use of

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	<p>seekers and refugees are understood and provided for</p>			<p>seeking children to play, as is their right, in Denbighshire. This is in partnership with Welsh Rugby Union, North Wales Police, Play Ranger Service, Denbighshire Leisure Ltd and Denbighshire Arts Council, to name a few.</p> <p>The Refugee Resettlement Team hold approx. 40 events in the calendar year which provide culturally appropriate and trauma informed activities for children and their families. This could include baking, painting, cricket, football, arts and crafts, music and fun days. They also have a small bank of new toys which are given to families arriving into Denbighshire and where the children do not have any toys.</p> <p>One mother said at an event <i>“This is the first time I have seen my child smile in 2 months.”</i></p> <p>Family Information Service signpost families and services to free open access groups and community events for them to access play opportunities.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service supported the resettlement of the Ukrainian Refugees into Denbighshire by providing play sessions in schools during play times and specific</p>	<p>money. The families do not have access to free travel, getting to events can be a challenge and even prevent them attending due to the cost of public transport. Additionally, the Refugee Resettlement Team do not have funds that we can spend directly on asylum seeking families to support with activities.</p>	<p>public funding for asylum seekers and refugees is set by UK and Welsh Government so there is little the Local Authority can do to address the shortfalls.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				targeted play sessions to assist with the transition into mainstream education in Wales with as little anxiety for the children and young people as possible. The children were also encouraged to attend the Play Sessions provided in the local community after school to help welcome and settle them into their local communities and feel a sense of belonging in their new communities.		
13	The play needs of care experienced children are understood and provided for	New for 2025	Amber	<p>Children who are experiencing care have their needs considered as part of Care and Support Plans, this may include children funded through the social care fund to attend childcare and play settings to support their developmental needs and to provide consistency and continuity in their lives. Children may also undergo 1 to 1 play therapy sessions dependent upon the needs of each child which can be used to support period of transition both into and out of care.</p> <p>Clwb CIC provided holiday play activities for children experiencing care and provide activity days and day trip out.</p> <p>The Children Looked After service have previously received a briefing regarding the Play Ranger Services and have an</p>	We have not previously looked specifically at the care needs of care experienced children	Accessible Play Coordinator to meet with Looked After Children's team and the Clwb CiC (Children in Care) coordinator and discuss opportunities to further support the needs of care experienced children.

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				established system to distribute information on Play Activities and Events to our Foster Carers		
14	The play needs of disabled children and children with additional learning needs are understood and provided for	-	-	Duplicate of matter 7 – see evidence given in ref. 7	-	-
15	The play needs of young carers are understood and provided for	Amber	Amber	<p>Young Carers access the WCD Young Carers Service, funded jointly in Denbighshire by IFFFS (Integrated families First and Flying Start) and Children's Services, and are commissioned alongside Wrexham County Borough Council, Conwy Borough Council and BCUHB. WCD carries out carers assessments to understand Young Carers needs and from these produce support plans</p> <p>As well as IAA, regular groups and 1 to 1 sessions, WCD provides a significant range and number of activities throughout the year – including as well as short residential breaks for small groups of Young Carers in a range of</p>	Signpost to the Play Ranger's open access play sessions for Young Carers to access more play opportunities in their local community.	More collaborative communication between partners.

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>settings.</p> <p>Regular group sessions routinely include opportunities for play and play based activities.</p> <p>In 2024-25, activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninja Tag soft play at SC2 in Rhyl • Jesters Day at Conwy Castle & crabbing on Conwy Quay • Salford Children’s Holiday Camp in Prestatyn overnight stay • Anglesey Show & Newborough Beach • Manley Mere day out <p>The Play Ranger Team are working with WCD Young Carers to encourage the children and young people to attend the open access sessions.</p> <p>An event is planned for Summer 2025 together with WCD Young Carers, Denbighshire Leisure Limited and the Play Ranger team for young carers and their families to provide play opportunities and the opportunity to share information about the open access sessions and other services available to them.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
16	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	Amber	Amber	<p>Local sports clubs and organisations can apply to Sport Wales for funding through the Be Active Wales Fund. The Denbighshire Leisure Ltd Community Sport Team will support them through this process.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service has delivered in schools to promote the importance of play and deliver sessions to all children and encourage attendance at the open access play sessions in the County. School clusters and special educational needs schools have also bought in staff time for the Play Rangers to deliver inclusive, targeted play sessions and to enhance protected break times for purposeful play. Schools have also bought in the Mini Play Ranger programme to work with groups of children in the schools to develop their own Mini Play Ranger Team who will then following a 6 week programme of 'training' with the Play Rangers would continue to promote and deliver play opportunities at break times and use the loose parts stores previously funded by AWPOG in schools however these both ended in July 2024 due to budget restraints in schools.</p> <p>All registered childcare and play providers</p>	Funding cuts in school budgets has meant bought in play services have been cut thus reducing the amount of inclusive play sessions being delivered in schools	Funding to promote the importance of protected break times for play and to demonstrate play delivery to school staff

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>received a Loose Parts handbook during the annual Childcare and Play Conference held in October 2024 which was provided jointly by Family Information Service and the Childcare and Play Development Team. This handbook gives providers the resources to complete a loose parts audit, risk benefit assessments and guidance on how to best use loose parts, the impacts and effects these have on a play frame.</p> <p>Children who attend out of school and holiday provision who access the 30-hour Childcare Offer for Wales and may require resources to be able to access the provision can be funded through the Additional Support Grant to ensure the setting is inclusive. This could be adaptations needed to make the setting accessible, equipment the child may need to access the environment or cover staff training that maybe required for specific needs to ensure the providers have access to the resources they need.</p> <p>The Small Grants Scheme as part of Welsh Government's Early Years and Childcare Capital Grant programme which CIW registered settings can apply for up to £20,000</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>annually to enhance their provision and play opportunities. This can also be used to make adaptations or purchase equipment/resources to make their environments more inclusive.</p>		
17	<p>There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for children with Additional Learning Needs</p>	Amber	Amber	<p>The Local Authority has a process for professionals to apply for funding for children and young people to access play activities. The form is accessible to complete.</p> <p>There is open communication, and discussion is good between Disability Wellbeing Navigators and Play Leaders. Advice is sought if either party are unsure of the process.</p> <p>There are well-known processes for identifying play needs for children with disabilities e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Well-being Navigators, • Families First Officers, • Specialist schools. • Collaboration with partners in Early Years Education (Targeted) • Social Services 	<p>Lack of provision for children with Additional Learning Needs, parents are reluctant to send their children to mainstream activities.</p>	<p>Further explore areas of need for separate provision and liaise with SEN Schools.</p> <p>Funding to set up specialist provision and cover staffing costs to run.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • Portage and SLC team. <p>Good working relationships built between local authority and play providers.</p> <p>The local authority are reviewing the processes and guidance around additional support for those with Additional Learning Needs and this should be completed in the Autumn of 2025. The current panel will continue while this consultation takes place.</p> <p>The Local Authority Early Education and preschool Outreach Team has adopted an online email panel for consideration of requests for specialist resources, training and adult support for children for children with additional learning needs.</p> <p>The Local authority works closely with health professionals to identify children with needs and to support any specialist training equipment that may be required e.g. Manual Handling</p> <p>The Pre-School Outreach team work closely with pre-school settings to provide support and advice to enable inclusive environment,</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>and experiences.</p> <p>Families First commission the Play Ranger Service to provide additional adult support for children and young people to be able to access play opportunities and activities across the county. Holiday Support Assistants will accompany the individuals to an activity of their choice such as Sports Zone, open Access Play sessions, Youth Service sessions etc. For children and young people who choose to access a registered out of school and holiday provision, the setting is funded directly by the local authority to provide the additional adult support as part of their CIW staff ratios.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service deliver sessions in Ysgol Tir Morfa, Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and Ty'r Ysgol special schools and also Stepping Stones Pupil Referral Unit. Children are encouraged and supported to attend the open access play sessions in the community and additional adult support is provided if needed.</p>		
18	There is a well-known and agreed	Amber	Amber	<p>Also covered in reference 7.</p> <p>There are well-known processes for identifying</p>	Children and young people with very	Further explore areas of need for

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children and those with additional support needs			<p>children who require additional support to help meet their play needs. We have pathways to support that professionals or parents can access via our Disability Well-being Navigators (DWN). The DWNs can carry out a What Matters Conversation with the family and support them to access appropriate support via Families First or Children’s Social Care. Good relationships built between local authority and play providers.</p> <p>The Integrated Families First and Flying Start Programme (IFFFS) commissions a Holiday Activities Project – managed by the Accessible Play Coordinator project to arrange 1 to 1 sessional support for children with additional needs and disabilities to attend play and leisure activities during school holidays.</p> <p>Integrated Families First and Flying Start also supports the Foundation Phase ALN team to ensure access to Disabled Play.</p> <p>Children and Young People who present with significant needs that impact on their ability to access universal and universal plus (e.g. Families First) play opportunities are referred for a Social Services assessment and, if eligible, may be able to access additional support such as a Personal Assistant or</p>	<p>complex needs children unable to access play activities.</p> <p>Lack of provision for children with disabilities and additional support needs, parents are reluctant to send their children to mainstream activities.</p> <p>There are gaps in information and advice for play activity providers to support them to meet the needs of young people with additional needs.</p>	<p>separate provision and liaise with SEN Schools.</p> <p>Funding to set up specialist provision and cover staffing costs to run.</p> <p>This gap will form part of an Early Years review and restructure planned to take place in 2025/26.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>specialist play clubs for children with complex disabilities of health needs. The local authority currently commission 2 specialist services for children who are unable to access universal provision, even with support – a monthly Saturday Sensory Club and an Out and About School Holiday Club. Both are registered child daycare providers with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).</p>	<p>Shortage of staff in the regulated sector to provide the additional adult support to meet the child's needs.</p> <p>In addition, some community providers struggle to meet the needs of children who require additional support staff to engage in their activities due to the shortage of staff or the cost of recruiting additional staff.</p>	<p>Engagement with strategies and programmes (such as WeCareWales) to recruit childcare professionals</p> <p>Families First will fund additional staff support or provide financial support for staff cover in regulated settings in some of these circumstances.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
19	Premises and spaces used for play provision are provided at no cost or low cost to providers	Amber	Amber	<p>Family Information Service holds some of the data and will signpost to relevant services.</p> <p>Information is advertised and held on the Denbighshire website and social media platforms.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service deliver their open access 'Let's Play Out' sessions in green spaces, local football clubs, local parks, school playgrounds and fields which are in the heart of communities and are provided at no cost.</p> <p>The Local Authority encourages organisations to update their information on DEWIS to promote their service.</p>	Information is dependent on external providers updating their information.	
20	The local authority provides grants or subsidies for providers offering opportunities to play	Green	Green	<p>Family Information Service manage the Small Grants Scheme as part of Welsh Government's Early Years and Childcare Capital Grant programme which CIW registered settings can apply for to enhance their provision and play opportunities.</p> <p>Family Information Service offer a subsidised training programme with a variety of training opportunities including accessing Playwork training and qualifications so that providers</p>	AWPOG Funding is not guaranteed or consistent from Welsh Government to support accessing Play Opportunities and historically has been issued	

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>can further enhance the play offer within their settings.</p> <p>Capital funding through the AWPOG (All Wales Play Opportunities Grant) is used to address gaps and emerging outcomes as highlighted within the PSA action plan.</p> <p>Local Authority holds information on out of school hour's grants, PSA funding, community chest funding, flying start funding etc.</p> <p>The Early Intervention/Childcare and Communities Grant services have previously accessed grants and/or committed underspend and slippage funds to commission play activities such as Summer of Fun and Winter Warm sessions, including organised street play with West Rhyl Young People's project.</p> <p>The services commit additional annual funding to WCD for short breaks and for activities for YCs under-8. This will continue and adapt as opportunities arise.</p> <p>We will continue to collaborate and work with internal and external stakeholders to develop opportunities for play. We will continue to identify and access additional funding where</p>	<p>during the last 3 months of the year which makes it difficult to use effectively to address gaps.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>applicable to support with the promotion of play.</p> <p>Working with colleagues in youth services and third sector we are promoting any funding opportunities available to settings and project that will support and facilitate opportunities for play.</p> <p>A resource pack is provided to new settings when they come onboard with Flying Start outlining an additional funding they can access to support with enrichment of play opportunities.</p>		
21	Subsidised transport for children travelling to provision, which offers opportunities to play, is provided for	Green	Amber	<p>Youth Services provide bus passes for young people to access sessions, interviews and targeted support.</p> <p>Flying Start provide transport for children and their families via their minibus to events such as Forest School and Swim Academy.</p> <p>Integrate Families First and Flying Start have access to a minibus to support with the facilitation of opportunities to encourage families to take up play activities and remove any barriers to them accessing play where possible.</p> <p>Free transport provided for summer holiday</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>woodland skills sessions.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service open access play sessions are delivered in a variety of local communities across Denbighshire to allow ease of access to sessions for children and young people within their locality.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service are working in Prestatyn High School to provide play sessions to incorporate breakfast and travel to children who live in rural communities. This is due to commence during Summer 2025</p>	<p>Provide more open access sessions in more rural communities to reduce the gap in travel access to attend the sessions</p>	<p>Funding to cover staffing costs to be able to staff additional sessions in more locations providing more local access to sessions.</p> <p>.</p>

Population: Additional comments – Matters A, B & E

The local authority uses the population data through several ways to plan and ensure there are sufficient play opportunities across the county by identifying areas of need such as high population density and ages of children and young people, areas of deprivation, more rural communities, areas with poor quality play spaces and new planning developments. This also allows us to identify area to complete play audits, assessing the accessibility and provision based on the local population and allows us to continually assess gaps in play areas and opportunities. This allows us to ensure a consistent and reflective action plan linked to the Play Sufficiency which is reflective to the current state of play ensuring play opportunities in Denbighshire are equitable, efficient and sustainable for future change.

The local authority strives to provide many opportunities for children to have access to no-cost or low-cost play provision including delivering a peripatetic Accessible Play Ranger Service delivering a variety of play opportunities to children and young

people within their local communities, helping to break down the barriers to access free play opportunities in safe places including access to some school grounds after hours. The local authority also recognises the areas in which more provision is needed and what is needed to reduce these barriers and works consistently to provide a solution to remove these and extend the inclusive play opportunities on offer particularly for children with disabilities or additional needs, from low-income backgrounds or those who live in rural or disadvantaged communities.

The local authority works collaboratively with Conwy County Borough Council on projects which link close cross border communities. There have been joint grant funded targeted projects delivered in local communities for children and young people aged 11+ by both local authorities Play teams working in collaboration.

The main challenges encountered have been down to lack of revenue funding available to provide sufficient opportunities. Funding for staff to be able to provide more play opportunities in identified areas of need, support and guidance for providers and services to be able to provide play opportunities for children with disabilities or additional needs and grant restrictions for children of asylum seeking or refugee families. There are recognised further collaborative conversations and working opportunities between departments and services to provide access and signposting to play opportunities to children accessing different services within their communities.

The local authority run Play Ranger Service has developed and grown since the last Play Sufficiency Assessment and during 2023-24 delivered sessions within local communities with over 22,000 attendances. The Play Ranger Service was awarded a Recognition of Achievement Award for this at the 2024 Denbighshire Childcare and Play Conference. Whilst the service has been extremely established and circulated since 2022, including previous Summer of Fun/Winter of Wellbeing funding which has impacted the number of sessions the service has been able to deliver within local communities. The Play Ranger Team are well identified within all schools in Denbighshire and have excellent relationships with the children.

- Actions considered for Play Action Plan – 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21
- Actions agreed for Play Action Plan – 3, 7, 17
- Rationale for action prioritisation – The actions which have been agreed for prioritisation on the Play Action Plan, the outcomes of completing the actions will cover most if not all the other emerging outcomes of the other considered actions.

There were similarities of the emerging outcomes from completing the Play Sufficiency Assessment with some of those from the 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment especially around provision for children with disabilities or additional needs. There is also a shortfall for 12 however this cannot be rectified by the local authority due to the criteria of the funding causing the gap which is set by the UK and Welsh Government. Whilst the chosen agreed actions will be the main focus for the next 12 months, the other considered actions will also remain under review and may be prioritised in subsequent years action plans leading up to the 2028 PSA.

Theme: Places where children play

This theme relates to:

Matter C: The space where children can play, including open space, and any other space

Matter F: Traffic measures that are used to promote access to play

Matter I: The extent to which education and local development planning policies take into account the need to enhance play opportunities for children

Local Authority Criteria reference numbers 22 to 56

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
22	An up-to-date record of all designated play space, as described in the Statutory Guidance , is kept	Green	Green	<p>Play Spaces under the maintenance of the local authority are inspected every year.</p> <p>An up-to-date record of this is held by the Local authority and is also available for the public on the LA website.</p> <p>The Play Team have recently carried out an audit of all designated play spaces and used the information to keep the website up to date.</p> <p>An online interactive map of North Wales has been created. This project has been funded by the Regional Partnership Board and will feature on the EHWR website under the out and about section. The website will provide information about free and low-cost opportunities and spaces to play. The Play team have received training on how to update the website to keep it up to date and to include information about open access play and any other play provision that is taking place. This can be updated at any time so its kept up to date.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  Open Space Portfolio 2024.pdf </div>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
23	Designated play areas and playgrounds are assessed for play value and potential to increase in play use	Green	Green	A number of play areas have been improved in the last year as and when required to improve accessibility and play value, this will continue subject to funding.		
24	Public spaces are assessed for play value and potential to increase in play use, as set out in the Statutory Guidance	Green	Amber	<p>Play space and public recreation areas in Cae Ddol, Ruthin and Coronation Gardens, Prestatyn have recently been subject to Shared Prosperity Funded projects to deliver accessible play provision.</p> <p>Open space assessment completed and published on DCC website https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/documents/planning-and-building-regulations/ldp/evidence-monitoring-and-information/open-space-assessment-and-audit.pdf</p> <p>Key Findings from the Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation revealed significant concerns regarding the maintenance and 	<p>Budget cuts affecting grounds maintenance services and quality of play areas</p> <p>Concerns</p>	<p>Local management teams could enhance upkeep and access to grants to further improve the quality of play areas.</p> <p>Further audits</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>quality of open space sites, particularly play areas. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of local management and the need for improvements in specific areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance issues raised, especially for play areas and flowerbeds. <p>Open Space Usage and Community Needs</p> <p>The consultation highlighted the general satisfaction with the usage of open space sites, although some areas lacked adequate facilities for all age groups. Specific needs for improvements were identified in various community areas.</p> <p>Most sites were reported as well-used by the community.</p>	<p>were raised about insufficient provision for toddlers and older children. Identified needs included benches, litter bins, and enhanced play equipment.</p> <p>Some areas lacked adequate facilities for all age groups</p>	<p>to ascertain areas of insufficient provision for toddlers and older children, benches, litter bins and enhanced play areas and proposals to be made.</p> <p>Use of AWPOG Capital grant to address the gaps.</p>
25	An Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or	Green	Amber	<p>Open space assessment completed and published on DCC website https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/documents/planning-and-building-regulations/ldp/evidence-monitoring-and-information/open-space-assessment-and-audit.pdf</p>	<p>The completion of the OSA did not consult with Children's Services or</p>	<p>Future OSA's to consult with Childcare and Play Development Manager and Children's</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance , has been undertaken				Play Team	Services to ensure input from Play Sufficiency and Childcare and play leads into areas of need.
26	Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales , have been developed	Green	Green	The adopted LDP 2006 – 2021 contains open space standards that are fully compliant with PPW and Tan 16. These will be reviewed as part of the replacement LDP preparation process but will always remain compliant.		
27	Green spaces are assessed for play value and potential to increase in play	Green	Green	Open space assessment completed and published on DCC website https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/planning-and-building-regulations/local-development-plan/ldp-evidence-monitoring-information/ldp-evidence-monitoring-information.aspx		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>All play areas area mapped showing locations</p> <p>In addition, a Green Infrastructure Assessment has been completed and published, https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/documents/planning-and-building-regulations/ldp/evidence-monitoring-and-information/denbighshire-green-infrastructure-assessment.pdf</p>		
28	Neighbourhood spaces are assessed for play value and potential to increase play	New for 2025	Amber	<p>There is no formal assessment of play value carried out on neighbourhood spaces. Consultation work takes place within the community to find out how best to improve the areas for play potential. These consultations are carried out on an ad hoc basis depending on where funding is available. There have recently been updates made to the green area in Clawdd Poncen in Corwen where a mountain bike pump track and football goals have been installed in the area. This update was made after the completion of a public consultation.</p>	No formal assessment process in place	To develop an understanding internally and explore a mechanism for a formal assessment process.
29	Access audits are undertaken at all designated	Green	Green	<p>Accessibility is monitored as part of the local authority's regular safety inspections.</p> <p>The Play Ranger team in conjunction with STAND Cymru conducted and audit of 36 parks and play</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	play spaces and proposals are implemented to improve access and safety			<p>space in Denbighshire in 2022. The purpose of the audit was to investigate whether play spaces in Denbighshire are designed in such a way that support inclusive play for children and young people of all ages and abilities.</p>  <p>STAND NW park audit report.pdf</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team completed an audit during early 2025 of play spaces across Denbighshire which included accessibility and disabled friendly equipment. This information will build a wider picture on the new Out and About Website hosted by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board due to go live in late 2025.</p>		
30	A new fixed play provision standard has been developed and agreed	Green	Green	<p>The local authority is continually monitoring it's play provision and where funding allows is undertaking a programme of modernisation.</p> <p>In 2024 funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund a total refurbishment of the play equipment in Cae Ddol park in Ruthin took place to develop a flagship, accessible playground which is seen as a blueprint for future developments of parks and play areas.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
31	Brownfield sites owned by the local authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play	Green	Green	<p>Marsh tracks in Rhyl continues to be an established, well used site by the local community example of a developed brownfield site. It is prime example of a brownfield site which has been renovated and made into a provision for play and recreation. Recreation wise the facility is well catered for different modes of cycling. There is no formal play equipment or sessions on site, but practical volunteering sessions are carried out.</p> <p>There is also Coed y Morfa site using the old landfill in Prestatyn that has a dual purpose – a raised bed style allotment site (using the previous civic amenity site) and 13.63 ha community woodland. There are future plans to upgrade the access paths allowing access for all</p> <p>Countryside Services also undertake recreation projects</p>		
32	The Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020 that require	Green	Green	All Play areas are no Smoking/vaping areas and appropriate signage is installed in all play areas.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	playgrounds in Wales to be smoke-free, are adhered to					
33	'No ball games', or similar signs have been removed, to encourage more children playing in the community	Amber	Amber	There are only a handful of 'No Ball Games' signs left in certain play areas due to close proximity to private residence where they are required.	There are still 'No Ball Games' signs in local town and community council managed parks.	Meetings with Town and Community Councils to promote the removal of the signs where appropriate to do so and provide with Play Priority Area signs to encourage playing in the community.
34	Play Priority Signs or similar, have been erected to encourage more children	Red	Amber	There have been a handful of communication boards that have been installed but no Play Priority signs have yet been installed.	Lack of signage and communication boards	Introduce Play Priority Signs and more Communication boards to be installed and considered

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	playing in the community					with any refurbishment or new developments
35	A recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play is included when any disposal decisions are made	Green	Green	No disposals are planned in the short to medium term. Any decisions made for disposal purposes would take into the impact on children's play opportunities.		
36	Children and their families are included in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	Green	Green	No play area disposals are planned or have been completed in the last 8 years.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
37	Access audits for all settings, as described in the Statutory Guidance , are undertaken	Green	Green	<p>Specific individual access audits that need to be completed are done following specific requests from members of the public or organisations.</p> <p>The Play Ranger team in conjunction with STAND Cymru (Stand Together for Additional Needs & Disabilities) completed a Play Spaces Audit which assessed the suitability of playgrounds in Denbighshire which helped inform the re-development of Cae Ddol Park in Ruthin.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team completed an audit during early 2025 of play spaces across Denbighshire which included accessibility and disabled friendly equipment. This information will build a wider picture on the new Out and About Website hosted by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board due.</p>		
38	Guidance around creating <i>accessible</i> play space is referred to when refurbishing or	Green	Green	When any new equipment is installed in any of the local authority owned play areas or when creating any play space, accessibility criteria is always considered and reflects the guidance around Creating Accessible Play Space.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	developing new playgrounds					
39	Partners collaborate to identify a mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities	Red	Green	<p>Denbighshire County Council's Road Safety and Active Travel team works closely with North Wales Police to identify, and address, collision sites and issues involving vulnerable road users, including child pedestrians.</p> <p>In addition to this, Denbighshire County Council partners with Sustrans on a number of road safety and active travel initiatives aimed at encouraging and enabling children to walk and cycle in the areas that they live.</p>		
40	There is a plan to reduce the negative effect of busy roads	Green	Green	There is a county Integrated Network Map (INM) with short/medium term projects. All agreed with Welsh Government and currently being delivered. The local authority always responds to any request for such action or identified need.	Welsh Government grants focus on utility destinations such as	

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists				Health Clinics and Leisure Centre and does not include specifically outdoor play area such as parks and playgrounds	
41	There is a plan to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas. To be	Green	Green	<p>Welsh Government grants focus on utility destinations such as Health Clinics and Leisure Centre and does not include specifically outdoor play area such as parks and playgrounds.</p> <p>The local authority adopts the Manual for Streets within all new developments or any proposed changes to highways network.</p> <p>The local authority refers to and complies with the Active Travel Act design guidance when developing such facilities.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	included on the Active Travel network Maps					
42	Road safety grants and/or other funding is used to provide pedestrian safety training and cycling training for children	Green	Green	The Denbighshire Leisure Limited Community Sport team deliver the Level 1 and 2 National Cycle training for Denbighshire schools. The training is delivered to Year 6 pupils in all primary schools. In 24/25 735 pupils took part. The team also offer Learn to Ride sessions and Little Bikers (balance bikes)		
43	There is an accessible and well-promoted way of arranging temporary road closures, to support	Red	Red	Traffic Section member of staff is attending the Welsh Government "Child Friendly Streets" seminar on 28 th March to further enhance knowledge and understanding to enable the local authority to shape future policies.	Temporary road closures to support more children to play outside their homes are not currently in place in	Suggest a future meeting between Education and Children's Services, Active Travel Engineer and Streetworks to explore

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	more children to play outside their homes				Denbighshire, however the local authority are currently considering the potential introduction of 'modal filters' as part of some active travel schemes.	opportunities.
44	Active Travel Act guidance is used when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm to ensure that safe and convenient routes for	Green	Green	<p>Welsh Government grants focus on utility destinations such as Health Clinics and Leisure Centre and does not include specifically outdoor play area such as parks and playgrounds.</p> <p>The local authority adopts the Manual for Streets within all new developments or any proposed changes to highways network.</p> <p>The local authority refers to and complies with the Active Travel Act design guidance when developing such facilities.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	walking, wheeling and cycling are incorporated from the start					
45	Child pedestrian road accident casualty data is used to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities	Green	Green	The local authority is a member of North Wales Strategic Casualty Reduction Group. This includes North Wales Police who provide casualty data so that issues and emerging trends and patterns can be identified.		
46	Active Travel Fund, Safe Routes in	Amber	Amber	When it comes to general social facilities and transit services for children to get to school, the local authority takes their needs into account.	Whilst initial pilot works have taken	A report outlining the impact and

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	<p>Communities and Road Safety grants and/or other funding is used to support access to opportunities to play. An example of this is school street schemes which are funded through the Safe Routes in Communities Grant. They create opportunities for play at the start and end of the school day</p>			<p>Denbighshire County Council participated in School Streets trial initiative, during 2023/24 and 2024/25, that was funded by Welsh Government via their Safe Route in Communities grant. The purpose of the trial, which included staging a number of trial School Streets at various schools in Denbighshire, was to determine their viability as permanent School Streets.</p>	<p>place to ascertain the impact and benefits of school street scheme there are currently no permanent school street schemes in place.</p>	<p>benefits of the trials to be presented to Denbighshire County Council Cabinet in Autumn 2025 to determine and gain approval that the School Streets Initiative can become permanent interventions in Denbighshire</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
47	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children.	Red	Amber	<p>The local authority considers the general needs of access for the communities where play opportunities are located even though it does not expressly take into account the needs of children to access play opportunities.</p> <p>During 2024 as part of the Levelling Up funding works took place to refurbish Cae Ddol park in Ruthin which included 480 metres of new active travel route through the park to make walking and cycling easier.</p>	There has been no change from previous PSA. Welsh Government grants do not particularly cover outdoor play areas like parks and playgrounds; instead, they concentrate on utility destinations like Health Clinics and Leisure Centres.	Collaborative working between Education and Children's Service and the Active Travel Engineer to explore opportunities to support access to play.
48	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich	Amber	Amber	Schools are encouraged through their Health and wellbeing work and school council training to provide a variety of opportunities at break times for the children to play with various equipment, given space to play games or zoning playgrounds.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	play environment for breaks during the school day			<p>The Play Ranger Service have delivered in schools to promote the importance of play and deliver sessions to all children and encourage attendance at the open access play sessions in the County. School clusters and special educational needs schools have also bought in staff time for the Play Rangers to deliver inclusive, targeted play sessions and to enhance protected break times for purposeful play.</p> <p>Schools have also bought in the Mini Play Ranger programme to work with groups of children in the schools to develop their own Mini Play Ranger Team who will then following a 6 week programme of 'training' with the Play Rangers would continue to promote and deliver play opportunities at break times and use the loose parts stores previously funded by AWPOG in schools however these both ended in July 2024 due to budget restraints in schools.</p> <p>The Play Ranger team worked with a sample of schools from across the county were asked to complete the school playtime survey to provide information about their playtime in their schools. The Play team can use this information to identify schools that may need support.</p>	<p>Funding cuts in school budgets has meant bought in play services have been cut thus reducing the amount of inclusive play sessions being delivered in schools.</p> <p>Children reported that they felt play times should be longer and break times</p>	<p>Funding to promote the importance of protected break times for play and to demonstrate play delivery to school staff</p> <p>Accessible Play Coordinator to attend and represent play at the</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>School focus groups gave the opportunity to ask children how satisfied they are with their play opportunities in school. The children completed the school playtime survey.</p>	<p>shouldn't be taken from them due to poor behaviour.</p> <p>They felt that there should be more resources available to them at break times to be able to do more play related things. They also reported they would like to have more Play Ranger session either in school or near to school at the end of the school day.</p>	<p>Denbighshire Health and Wellbeing Group (School Settings 3 – 18)</p> <p>Additional capital and revenue funding ringfenced to play staffing and resources, both in and out of school.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
49	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	Amber	Amber	<p>Breakfast club, break times and afterschool clubs provide opportunities for children to choose which activities/games they want to play with, again this is encouraged through their Health and wellbeing work and pupil voice.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service support schools who have identified children who are struggling socially to provide an intervention service using play. Children have then been supported to access open access play sessions after school hours as they are familiar with the play team and engage in more opportunities to develop their social and play skills.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have worked closely with Ysgol Pendref in Denbigh, Ysgol Penmorfa in Prestatyn Ysgol Christchurch in Rhyl and Ysgol Bryn Collen in Llangollen to provide open access play opportunities by using the school grounds.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service work in partnership with Ysgol Christchurch and the Oaktree Integrated Children's Centre in Rhyl to host the annual</p>	<p>Revenue financial pressures for schools may create challenges in supporting extra curriculum activities.</p> <p>During the school focus groups children reported they would like to have more play ranger session either on the school grounds or next to at the end of the</p>	<p>Funding to support the Play Ranger Service to expand the after school open access sessions in more areas so that more children benefit from play</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>National Play Day event on the first Wednesday every August which over 3,000 people attended in 2024.</p> <p>Prestatyn High School provide play opportunities during school holidays in collaboration with the Play Ranger Service and recognise the importance of teenage play.</p>	school day.	opportunities on school grounds or close to outside of the school day
50	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	Amber	Amber	<p>This is determined on an individual school basis and is the decision of the school and governors. There isn't a local authority policy on this.</p> <p>With the introduction of Community Focused Schools Capital funding, opportunities to support increased out of hours use has been highlighted to schools. This may be reduced moving forward with the change in emphasis of this grant.</p>	During the school focus groups children reported they would like to have more play ranger session either on the school grounds or next to at the end of the school day.	Childcare and Play Development Manager to attend Head Teachers conference to highlight the importance of play and the benefits to children for opening up school grounds.
51	Guidance to ensure schools understand	Amber	Amber	Schools are reminded of the importance of regular outdoor play through their Health and Wellbeing work.	The Playmaker award for pupils in year	Revenue funding for the Play Ranger Service to

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed, is provided			<p>The Play Ranger Service have delivered in schools to promote the importance of play and deliver sessions to all children and encourage attendance at the open access play sessions in the County. School clusters and special educational needs schools have also bought in staff time for the Play Rangers to deliver inclusive, targeted play sessions and to enhance protected break times for purposeful play.</p> <p>Schools have also bought in the Mini Play Ranger programme to work with groups of children in the schools to develop their own Mini Play Ranger Team who will then following a 6 week programme of 'training' with the Play Rangers would continue to promote and deliver play opportunities at break times and use the loose parts stores previously funded by AWPOG in schools however these both ended in July 2024 due to budget restraints in schools.</p>	<p>6 which has previously been delivered to teach pupils the basic skills of leading play activities, this was delivered by Denbighshire Leisure Limited however they no longer provide this to schools.</p> <p>Funding cuts in school budgets has meant bought in play services have been cut thus reducing the amount of</p>	<p>deliver the Mini Play Ranger programme in schools to teach children how to run their own play sessions during outdoor play.</p> <p>Funding to promote the importance of protected break times for play and to demonstrate play delivery to school staff</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
					<p>inclusive play sessions being delivered in schools.</p> <p>Feedback from children during the school focus groups, they felt that schools could let them play more, have longer play times and not having play times taken away from them for misbehaving in class. They also felt that schools should have more play resources in</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
					order to make play time fun.	
52	The importance of play is considered as part of the local delivery of the Community Focused Schools initiative	New for 2025	Amber	Opportunities via Community Focused Schools Capital funding to support improved facilities that can be accessed by the local community and allow for increased out of hours use has been highlighted to schools.		
53	The importance of play is considered as part of the local delivery of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme	New for 2025	Amber	The design process for new schools places an importance on the whole learning environment including opportunities for play. Typically, specialist advisors are employed at design stage to support this work.	This may be reduced moving forward with the change in emphasis of this grant.	
54	The Health and Safety	Green	Green	Schools are advised to ensure that all organised activities have a completed risk assessment". The		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge			<p>shortfall is that it requires schools to do this and we do not have the resources to check everything they are advised to do. We can say that we annually carry out school safety management sample monitoring.</p> <p>Denbighshire Play Ranger Service implement a Risk Benefit Assessment process across all sessions, ensuring children are allowed to safely experience risk and challenge in their play. All staff are given training on Dynamic Risk Benefit Assessment process and given ongoing support.</p>		
55	The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate a benefit-risk approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by ISO, the International Organization for	Amber	Amber	<p>The Corporate Health and Safety policy does meet the requirements of the HSE and if school use the local authority guidance, their also will.</p> <p>Denbighshire County Council complete annual sample monitoring of school Health and Safety management.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	Standardization					
56	The local authority offers the provision of insurance through the local authority scheme, to all third sector play providers and community councils	Red	Red		The Local Authority does not provide this service.	

Places where children play: Additional comments – C, F & I

As part of the 2025 Play Sufficiency Assessment the Play Ranger Service set up focus groups in Primary schools across Denbighshire to hear the children's voice about opportunities for them to play and for them to have a voice in the Play Sufficiency Assessment for Denbighshire and be empowered with a sense of ownership and value.

Now the focus groups have been formed, this will inform how the Play Team and the local authority can work to try to break down or remove some of the barriers by finding ways to implement the solutions they came up with.

There are strong collaborations between the Play Ranger Service and several departments and external organisations which have evidenced positive outcome for play opportunities in Denbighshire with over 20,000 attendances to open access play sessions. There are strong links with schools across Denbighshire and the feedback from the children during focus groups evidenced that with the welcoming of more open access play sessions both in schools and in their local communities. The Road Safety and Active Travel team have established strong links with North Wales police and other regional groups to ensure safer routes for children in the communities and are mindful of protecting safe spaces to play.

Reduction in funding streams, especially for schools has clearly had an impact on children's experiences of play in schools. Schools no longer have the financial capacity to buy in services such as the Play Rangers to deliver and model meaningful play sessions during break times, to demonstrate to school staff the importance of children's protected play times or to invest in the Mini Play Ranger programme or equipment to enhance and develop better play times during the school day.

To overcome the challenge of reduced funding streams impacting children's play experiences in schools, a well-rounded, resourceful approach is needed. There are several strategies that could help mitigate the issues including:

- Empowering and training existing school staff
 - Demonstrate the use of free or low-cost resources, using the loose parts toolkit
 - Develop pupil-led initiatives such as the Mini Play Ranger scheme – training pupils as play leaders
 - Schools and organisations encouraged to apply for grants and alternative funding
 - Integrate more play into curriculum and timetables
 - Provide schools with individual Play Action Plans
 - Advocate and educate a strong narrative within the school community and local policy about the benefits of play
-
- Actions considered for Play Action Plan – 24, 25, 33, 34, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51
 - Actions agreed for Play Action Plan – 24, 34, 48, 49, 51, 64
 - Rationale for action prioritisation - The actions which have been agreed for prioritisation on the Play Action Plan, the outcomes of completing these actions will cover most of the other emerging outcomes of the other considered actions. Whilst some of the considered actions have not been prioritised, this is because they are already highlighted as priorities within other departments work programmes and will be addressed separately. Whilst the chosen agreed actions will be the focus for the next 12 months, the other considered actions will also remain under review and may be prioritised in subsequent years action plans leading up to the 2028 PSA.

Theme: Supervised provision

This theme relates to:

Matter D: Supervised play provision

Matter G: Playwork training and workforce development

Local Authority Criteria reference numbers 57 to 77

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
57	An up-to-date record of all supervised playwork provision, as described in the Statutory Guidance , is kept	Green	Green	<p>The Play Ranger Service is monitored by the Accessible Play Coordinator who reports to the Childcare and Play Development Manager.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service also provides monitoring information to Integrated Families First and Flying Start for open access play opportunities that are delivered in Flying Start areas.</p> <p>A record of all registered provision is held by Family Information Service. The Local Authority does not hold information relating to unregistered provision.</p> <p>Providers are recommended to upload their details to the DEWIS Cymru website.</p> <p>The Denbighshire Leisure Limited Community Sport team promote sessions on the Denbighshire Leisure</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Limited website and social media platforms, with registers kept on our Upshot system.</p> <p>Denbighshire Leisure soft play sessions are held in Llangollen and Ruthin</p> <p>The Nova in Prestatyn has a purpose-built soft adventure play area. https://novaprestatyn.co.uk/adventure-play/</p> <p>SC2 in Rhyl has Ninja TAG and a soft adventure play area https://sc2rhyl.co.uk/ninja-tag/ https://sc2rhyl.co.uk/adventureplay/</p>		
58	Playwork provision offered by the local authority provides a rich play environment, as described in the Statutory Guidance	Amber	Green	<p>The Local Authority Play Ranger Service provides open access play provision at different locations across Denbighshire ensuring a rich play environment is always provided.</p> <p>All staff have a sound knowledge of how to provide a rich play environment and have knowledge of the playwork curriculum and principles to help support them in the creation of purposeful play spaces.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service is located within the local authority run Integrated Children’s Centre which offers</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>free open access play sessions as part of the core aims of an integrated Children’s Centre. The Oaktree Integrated Children’s Centre also provides excellent, affordable out of school and holiday provision with a team of qualified Playworkers. There is a rich, purposeful, extensive and inclusive play environment including a forest school area where children and young people of all ages and abilities can access meaningful and fun play opportunities.</p> <p>Denbighshire’s Play Ranger Service, Conwy County Borough Council Play Team and Christchurch CP School in Rhyl worked in partnership to deliver a targeted project for young people aged 11+ in Rhyl, Penmaenmawr and Tan Lan, Old Colwyn. There was a total of 138 attendances at the session in Rhyl including young people from 2 high schools and 3 primary schools.</p> <p>The sessions in Rhyl were based at The Oak Tree Centre Integrated Children’s Centre using the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and Christchurch School Playing Fields.</p> <p>Denbighshire Leisure Limited provide soft play sessions that are held in Llangollen and Ruthin leisure centres.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>The Nova in Prestatyn has a purpose-built soft adventure play area. https://novaprestatyn.co.uk/adventure-play/</p> <p>SC2 in Rhyl has Ninja TAG and a soft adventure play area https://sc2rhyl.co.uk/ninja-tag/ https://sc2rhyl.co.uk/adventureplay/</p> <p>Denbighshire Countryside Services have a range of projects and activities throughout the year at various locations across Denbighshire to encourage outdoor activities and family engagement. https://www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk/accessible-denbighshire/</p>		
59	The local authority ensures that partners offering playwork provision are supported to offer rich play environments,	Amber	Amber	<p>The local authority works closely with a number of partners and third party organisations to support them to provide play opportunities in Denbighshire.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare Providers and Childminders • Denbighshire Arts • Denbighshire Leisure Limited • Schools and Educations Services • Community Housing 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	as described in the Statutory Guidance			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Games • Town and Community Councils • Families First • Flying Start • North Wales Police • Play Wales • Hwb Denbigh • South Denbighshire Community Partnership • local businesses. <p>All registered childcare and play providers received a Loose Parts handbook during the annual Childcare and Play Conference held in October 2024 which was provided jointly by Family Information Service and the Childcare and Play Development Team. This handbook gives providers the resources to complete a loose parts audit, risk benefit assessments and guidance on how to best use loose parts, the impacts and effects these have on a play frame.</p> <p>Regular meetings held through the Denbighshire Network Group, Prestatyn Youth Forum and the Childcare and Play Forum to information share and provide support to each other for events and ongoing play development in local areas. The Play Ranger Team have supported organisations by attending events organised by partners to ensure rich play</p>	Attend the Anti Social Behaviour Forum and Rhyl Community Network to support local communities in need of additional play opportunities	Funding to staff more open access sessions in more locations

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>environments and purposeful play opportunities are offered.</p> <p>Dyserth Community Council contribute to a term time open access play provision. Therefore, showing their recognition of the needs of children in their local community. This was also shown after their attempt to flatten down bike ramps/ jumps created by local children failed. The children rebuilt the jumps the next day. After a conversation with the Accessible Play Coordinator and explaining the need for a rich play environment and the benefits of what the children are doing and how the benefits are outweighing the risks currently, the town councillors decided to allow the children to continue to create and use these ramps to create their own play environment which gives them a sense of ownership within their local community. This has had a big social impact on the local community as more children now use these jumps.</p>		
60	Staffed playwork provision that the local authority provides meets	Green	Green	<p>The provision situated within the Oaktree Integrated Childrens Centre is fully registered and regulated with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales).</p> <p>Staff from within the Oaktree Integrated Childrens Centre are qualified to a high standard with all</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	<p>the regulatory requirements and the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards (NMS) for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years</p>			<p>leadership staff compliant with the revised playwork qualification requirements of the National Minimum Standards which came into effect in November 2024.</p> <p>The Play Ranger service deliver a peripatetic open access play services at various locations across the authority. The sessions provide extensive play opportunities and work with colleagues and third-party organisations to raise awareness and to advocate the importance of play in the communities. Whilst there are no registered holiday play schemes in Denbighshire staff within Childcare and Play Development Team are train to level 3 in MAHPS (Managing a Holiday Play Scheme).</p> <p>The Childcare and Play Development Manager provides support and guidance to childcare and play providers so they meet the requirements of the National Minimum Standards.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide an extensive subsidised training programme for childcare and play providers so that they meet the regulatory requirement of the National Minimum Standards.</p>		
61	Staffed playwork	Amber	Green	The Oaktree Integrated Children's Centre and Little Acorns at Christ the Word School which are local		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	provision that the local authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and NMS			<p>authority maintained providers exceed the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards and this is evident in their most recent CIW and Estyn Inspections in which they were rated Excellent.</p> <p>Whilst the Play Ranger Team is not registered with CIW as a play provision it is operated to National Minimum Standards level to ensure high quality play provision is offered to maintain high standards.</p>		
62	Staffed playwork provision that the local authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and NMS	Amber	Amber	Whilst there is no externally registered playwork provision offered by partners other than childcare providers, support is given to these to help them meet the National Minimum Standards. The local authority has no direct control over whether they meet the NMS but support is given when there are shortfalls highlighted during routine CIW inspections.		
63	Staffed playwork provision that is not registered under the Child	Green	Green	The Play Ranger Service offer all staff the relevant Playwork training. 7 staff have the L2APP qualifications with 3 staff working towards Level 3 Playwork qualifications, 2 staff hold Level 3 Playwork Qualifications and Level 3 MAHPS qualifications.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	Minding and Day Care Regulations is supported to ensure staff suitability and quality of opportunities for children to play			<p>There is a safer recruitment process in place to ensure the suitability of all staff prior to commencing employment and this includes thorough application and interview process, suitable references checks, enhanced DBS check and probationary period reviews are undertaken to ensure staff suitability.</p> <p>All staff are enhanced DBS checked and kept up to date. Staff training and induction are delivered and CPD continuously offered and encouraged. All staff to be trained to safeguarding group B with the Childcare and Play Development Manager holding a group C Designated Safeguarding Lead qualification.</p> <p>All staff are aware of service policies and procedures as part of the induction process. All staff are Emergency Paediatric First Aid and First Aid at Work trained.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide a subsidised training programme for childcare and play providers to ensure they are compliant within the regulation and National Minimum Standards. Safeguarding, Emergency Paediatric First Aid and First Aid at Work along with Level 2 Food Hygiene training are all fully subsidised to assist with sustainability for the settings.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Denbighshire Leisure limited through its Safeguarding Group, complete a Safeguarding Audit process to ensure that all clubs and societies delivering within their sites are suitably qualified, DBS compliant and relevant insurances are in place. This information is required before a booking can be confirmed. Spot checks are also carried out on these clubs and societies.</p> <p>All relevant Denbighshire Leisure Limited staff have a DBS and this is monitored through the Safer Recruitment Group.</p>		
64	Staffed playwork provision across the local authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	Amber	Amber	<p>All childcare and play providers located within Denbighshire are actively encouraged to follow Welsh Government Early Childhood, Play, Learning and Care Framework which is underpinned by the local authority Early Education and Flying Start teams.</p> <p>CWLWM organisations encourage members to undertake to take part in one of the CWLWM partner's quality assurance scheme to assist with provider self-evaluation and improvement plans and to demonstrate to service users and professional the setting is aiming to exceed the CIW National Minimum Standards.</p> <p>The Play Ranger team and Integrated Children's</p>	The Play Ranger team to gain Play Wales 'Chwarae o Safon' quality mark	Liaise with Play Wales to be a part of the pilot of the quality mark scheme

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Centre have Forest School trained staff who deliver Forest School activities during sessions and in the Integrated Children's Centre.</p> <p>Youth Services are working towards the Welsh Government Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales: Bronze level award.</p>		
65	Settings assessed as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs) have been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer	New for 2025	Green	<p>All registered childcare settings are inspected routinely by CIW who will assess the quality of play opportunities that the settings provide and offer. If there are any highlighted recommendations as part of the inspection process or if any Priority Action Notices are issued then the Childcare and Play Development Manager will work with the setting to help them resolve any issues, will support them in sourcing funding stream to address issues if this is needed and work with any other local authority services which may be involved with the setting to ensure standards are raised.</p> <p>Early Education and Flying Start team carry regular support visits and give continuous feedback on the quality of play opportunities on offer within their setting. They will support with planning for the Curriculum for Wales and also give ideas to help further enhance their play environment both indoor and outdoor. Annual</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				assessment are undertaken and scorings are given which then form an action plan if needed to raise the quality of provision.		
66	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing access to play and recreational activities.	Amber	Green	<p>The Play Ranger team deliver sporting and physical activities as a standing part of their open access play sessions.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team and Denbighshire Leisure Community Sport Teams support the Food and Fun holiday enrichment programme during the first 3 weeks of the summer holidays provided in schools.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Team were commissioned by Prestatyn High School to deliver the Fit and Fed initiative during the summer holiday 2024 for 3 weeks, activities included a wide variety of play and sporting activities.</p> <p>The Play Ranger team coordinate National Play Day each year on the first Wednesday in August held at Christchurch Playing field at the Oaktree Integrated Children's Centre in Rhyl. Working in partnership with a number of partners and organisations to provide a wide variety of free play activities. In 2024 over 3,000 people attended the event making it the busiest event since it was first established in Denbighshire in 2015.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Denbighshire Leisure Limited Community Sport team in partnership with the Play Ranger Service, Youth Groups and other community group provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Fun sessions in the local communities • Little Bikers sessions • Multi-sport sessions • Wellbeing walks 		
67	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	Amber	Amber	<p>Denbighshire Leisure Limited offer a wide range of activities for children, both in the community and at the leisure centres. Leisure Centre activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft play • Swimming • Climbing • Bouldering • Igames • Junior fitness. <p>Community activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family fun events • Little biker sessions • Multi-sport sessions. 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				Also available to access are many sports clubs and organisations who run clubs out of the leisure centres and local facilities and sports grounds.		
68	The cultural and arts agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children.	Green	Green	<p>Denbighshire Leisure Limited Community Arts have delivered the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts offer within the Active Communities Fun Days scheduled for families during school holidays across the county. • Art workshops in DCC libraries during school holidays. • Intergenerational creative project for a Denbighshire school each school term linking with care homes and/or community hospitals. • Creative activities for resettled young people in partnership with DCC English as an Additional Language Service and resettled families with DCC UK Resettlement Team. • Delivering a series of one-off music projects with the Bookstart Service for pre-school children. • Delivering creative opportunities for young people with additional needs in partnership with STAND. 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting two wellbeing projects in two Denbighshire High Schools working with their wellbeing teams. • Supporting The Denbigh Workshop to deliver drama opportunities for young people living in areas of deprivation. • Supporting one off creative opportunity for young people supported by the cancer charity The Joshua Tree. 		
69	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and recreation	Green	Green	<p>The Youth Service offers opportunities for young people aged 11-25 yrs to access Youth Work provision across the county.</p> <p>This includes a rural team who provide youth work in smaller more hard to reach communities. Working closely with other departments and partners to ensure varied inclusive opportunities are available. We do this through universal open access, targeted and holiday programme provision</p>		
70	The playwork workforce in regulated provision is supported to achieve the	Green	Green	Family Information Service provide a training programme for childcare and play providers to ensure they are compliant within the regulation and National Minimum Standards. Safeguarding, Emergency Paediatric First Aid and First Aid at Work along with Level 2 Food Hygiene training are all fully subsidised to		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	<p>qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards (NMS) for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years</p>			<p>assist with sustainability for the settings.</p> <p>The Local Authority has seen that there is sufficient training on offer with training providers in the region to ensure all settings have a relevantly qualified play worker.</p> <p>Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs have a wide range of training available to support providers to achieve the required qualification levels including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering fully funded Playwork Training. Options range from Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice through the Training and Support Programme to the Level 5 Advanced Diploma offered through apprenticeships. • Level 2, 3 and 5 Diplomas in Playwork through the Apprenticeship scheme. • CPCKC are delivering Playwork training through their CYMell project to support the CIW registration and expansion of Welsh-medium Out of School Childcare Clubs. A bursary is available to eligible settings that are CIW registered, or who commit to become CIW registered, to support with the additional expense of staff attending the training. Learners who wish to undertake their training through the 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				medium of Welsh complete a CYMell Expression of Interest.		
71	The playwork workforce in unregistered provision has access to training and qualifications in playwork	New for 2025	Green	<p>The local authority provides all playwork provision, registered or unregistered the same opportunities to access training and qualifications in playwork. This is to ensure consistency at a national minim standards level across the board is encouraged by the local authority in any delivery.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide a training programme for childcare and play providers to ensure they are compliant within the regulation and National Minimum Standards. Safeguarding, Emergency Paediatric First Aid and First Aid at Work along with Level 2 Food Hygiene training are all fully subsidised to assist with sustainability for the settings.</p>		
72	The Local authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	Green	Green	Family Information Service hold a training budget as part of the Training and Support element of the Children's and Communities Grant (CCG) which is solely for the childcare and play sector.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
73	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	Green	Green	<p>Family Information Service provide an annual training programme which is offered to all registered providers within the local authority.</p> <p>Play Wales hold regular trainings and webinars which are actively promoted by Family Information Service, the Childcare Development team and the Play Ranger Team to support and upskill the sector.</p> <p>The Health Preschools team provide a varied training programme to preschool settings and school on areas such as outdoor learning and forest school training.</p> <p>Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs provide a wide range of trainings to enhance the knowledge of the sector.</p> <p>Flying Start have provided settings with Beach School training.</p>		
74	Playwork is included within local Workforce Development strategies	Green	Green	<p>Playwork is included within the workforce development strategies and as part of the FIS and Early Years training.</p> <p>The Local Authority as part of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board has a Care Career Connector in post to support and promote the WeCare Wales workforce. The officer has close links with local</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				colleges, WeCare Wales and actively supports and promotes any positions which arise within the Care and Play sector.		
75	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	Green	Green	<p>Family Support Services promote families to access all play opportunities within the county by giving timely information about all of the play services and sessions that are on throughout the county during term time and holidays.</p> <p>The Family Support Service also have a Communications and Engagement Support Officer who ensures that all staff and services in Integrated Families First and Flying Start know about all the play opportunities available in Denbighshire via an internal team newsletter and to families via Social media platform. Play ideas and activities are also distributed through social media and all IFFFS teams for all of the school holidays.</p> <p>Flying Start Early language team also deliver Forest and beach school sessions during the holidays and during term time.</p> <p>Family Support also recommend, promote and offer play ideas and activities through Stay and play sessions in Rhyl and Denbigh, Infant Feeding and in</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>our Early Years and nurture Groups with families.</p> <p>The Family Support Service work in partnership with the Play Ranger Service and attend National Playday each year.</p> <p>The Family Support Service promote play in family support 1 to 1 sessions at home and demonstrate play skills, how to support children in play and role play.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide signposting, advice and support to families on accessing play opportunities across Denbighshire. Family Information Service distribute play sessions and activities to all childcare and play providers and to families through social media posts.</p>		
76	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of	Green	Green	<p>The local authority recognises the importance of play as a child's right with significant benefits for their social and cognitive development and wellbeing. Families First and the Play Ranger Service joint fund an accessible play service and additional staff to enable children with additional needs to engage in open access play sessions and other community play and extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Denbighshire Integrated Families First and Flying Start programme recognises the importance and benefits of</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	opportunities to play			<p>children’s play as demonstrated by our longstanding commitment to both the Holiday Activities and Disabled Play services.</p> <p>Play is included as a key element in many of our services and interventions, including parenting groups such as Swim Academy, sessions, Beach School and Forest School. The service also hosts regular Family Fun Days in the school holidays.</p> <p>Families First and the Play Ranger Service are currently working on a new Service Level Agreement to further strengthen and promote play opportunities for children most in need.</p>		
77	Early years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich opportunities to play for	Green	Green	<p>As above in 76</p> <p>All Early Education funded settings follow the Curriculum for Wales – A Curriculum for non-maintained nursery settings which focuses on play based experiential learning.</p> <p>All Early Education funded settings have training opportunities to promote effective Outdoor Play.</p> <p>All Early Education funded setting have had resources for loose parts/natural resources.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	younger children			<p>All Early Education funded settings are encouraged to use their local community play spaces as good practice.</p> <p>All Early Education funded settings have been provided with funding to visit other settings to share outstanding practice with a focus on outdoor/risky play.</p> <p>Denbighshire Integrated Families First and Flying Start programme recognises the importance and benefits of children’s play as demonstrated by our longstanding commitment to both the Holiday Activities and Disabled Play services.</p> <p>Play is included as a key element in many of our services and interventions, including parenting groups such as Swim Academy, sessions, Beach School and Forest School. The service also hosts regular Family Fun Days in the school holidays.</p> <p>Where possible all planning of sessional and 1 to 1 delivery officers recognise and value the importance of play and continue to strive to incorporate enrichment play opportunities for children including those in harder to reach demographics or who have any barriers to accessing services due to rurality.</p> <p>Flying Start hold ‘Stay and Play’ sessions and their</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status	Current PSA RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Early Language Development team works closely with young families in their homes to promote parent-child interactive play to promote language development.</p> <p>Flying Start settings are visited regularly by the childcare team and they advise and support settings to ensure ongoing high-quality provision for play.</p> <p>All settings are encouraged to apply for small capital grant to improve play resources and experiences.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide an extensive, subsidised annual training programme for Childcare and Play Providers and it is developed in collaboration with Flying Start and Early Education to streamline trainings, avoid duplications and reduce pressures on providers to release staff to be able to access the training. The training programme includes required qualifications a listed in the National Minimum Standards to meet the playwork requirements and CPD training in raise the importance on providing meaningful play opportunities in settings and ensuring staff understand the importance of play at an early age and how they can identify and provide these opportunities.</p>		

Supervised provision: Additional comments - D & G

The Childcare and Play Development Manager is the designated Childcare Lead Officer and Play Lead Officer for the local authority and manages all areas of childcare policy, play policy, childcare sufficiency and play sufficiency for Denbighshire.

The Childcare and Play Development Manager is the Service Manager for Family Information Service, Childcare Development Team, Play Ranger Service, Integrated Children's Centre, local authority Responsible Individual for the CIW registered childcare settings – Little Acorns at The Oaktree Centre and in Christ the Word School and Childcare Offer for Wales.

The Childcare and Play Development Manager works closely with colleagues and external organisations such as colleges, training providers and CWLWM organisations to ensure there are sufficient training and development opportunities on offer to build and enhance the play sector. The Family Information Service provide a fully subsidised and extensive training programme annually to help upskill the workforce within the sector and to further help with sustainability by covering costs of training requirements – ensuring the sector are compliant within all policy areas and National Minimum Standards.

The Childcare and Play Development Manager formed part of the working group with Welsh Government and CIW to review the National Minimum Standards training requirements which were amended and came into effect in November 2024 – providing practical and on the ground experience which helped inform the effectiveness of the NMS review and how it will impact the front line in practice.

The Accessible Play Coordinator leads the Play Ranger Service and has completed the ADDaPT training and will be able to further support locally to train more staff in L2APP and P£ qualifications.

- Actions considered for Play Action Plan - 59
- Actions agreed for Play Action Plan – 64

Rationale for action prioritisation - The rationale for prioritising action 64 within the section was because the outcomes for the action 59 has already been prioritised within the previous 2 sections which will address the gap.

Theme: Policy synergy, engagement, advocacy and information

This theme relates to:

Matter F: Measures used to promote access to play, including the provision of information, publicity and events

Matter G: Training opportunities for the play workforce

Matter H: The level of community engagement and participation

Matter I: The extent to which other policies of a local authority take into account the need to enhance play opportunities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
78	There is a clearly identified section on the local authority website, which gives information about opportunities to play as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, playwork provision, clubs and their accessibility)	Green	Green	<p>There is a dedicated section on the Denbighshire County Council's website so that play area's can be located. https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/play-areas/play-areas.aspx</p> <p>Denbighshire Play Ranger Service have their own dedicated landing page within the Local Authority website. This has all the information about all open access sessions and is kept up to date by the Play Ranger service staff and the web-team. Regular meetings are held with the web-team to ensure the website is kept relevant and up to date.</p> <p>Parents can access timetables of all sessions and also register their child to take part in play sessions. This process has been simplified</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>based on feedback from parents to encourage more people to attend more sessions, therefore Increasing the opportunity to play. Parents can now register their child / children with the service which means once they have registered once they can attend any of the open access sessions across the county.</p> <p>https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/play-ranger-service/play-ranger-service.aspx</p>		
79	Information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	Green	Green	<p>Denbighshire Play Ranger Service have their own dedicated landing page within the Local Authority website. This has all the information about all open access sessions and is kept up to date by the Play Ranger service staff and the web-team. Regular meetings are held with the web-team to ensure the website is kept relevant and up to date.</p> <p>https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/play-ranger-service/play-ranger-service.aspx</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have a dedicated email inbox for all enquiries which are play related and this is widely publicised and is an easy to remember email address play@denbighshire.gov.uk It is also available</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>in Welsh and is published along with all timetables, posters and all correspondence to parents, schools and other organisations.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service social media pages offer contact options as lots of parents prefer to make contact in this way as it is less formal. Staff regularly check social media channels and reply to any enquiries promptly.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have resources readily available to support play in a wide range of environments and these are regularly distributed at Play sessions in the community and are made available in all schools.</p> <p>Family Information Service co-locate with the Play Ranger Service in the Integrated Children's Centre and signpost and share information on accessing play opportunities.</p>		
80	Events which encourage opportunities to play and events for children and families are	Green	Green	Denbighshire Leisure Limited's Community Sport team run regular Family Fun sessions throughout the county during school holidays. These sessions are free to attend and work with multiple partners on delivering them. They are advertised on Denbighshire Leisure Limited's social media accounts and also		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	publicised and supported			<p>through Family Information Service.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service offer all year round open access play opportunities across Denbighshire. These are published in the form of timetables and posters. Local supermarkets support events by donating items such as food, drinks, play equipment. They also publicise events and sessions on their information boards.</p> <p>The Denbighshire Play Ranger Service share events on their social media pages and all information goes online onto the Play Ranger page on the Denbighshire Website and is regularly updated. The Play Ranger Service also promote events delivered by other services or organisations to children and families.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have been working on a project together with the Health Board, Regional Partnership Board and Emotional Health, Wellbeing and Resilience Framework to create a dedicated 'Out and About' section on the EHWR website. This will promote all areas suitable for play that are free or of low cost. It will contain lots of information about</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>each location and user-friendly images. The information will be free to access and will be kept up to date by each Local Authority.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have received training on how to update the website so the information that is advertised is always correct and current. Aswell as providing information about places such as beaches, woodland walks, open spaces, play areas with fixed equipment it can also be used to promote any events or play sessions that may be taking place throughout the whole of North Wales. The Play Ranger Service can therefore use the website to promote 'Let's Play Out' open access play sessions during school holidays and any events such as National Play Day. It can also be used to promote any events delivered by other services within the authority which promote play.</p> <p>National Play Day is celebrated in Denbighshire every year on the first Wednesday in August. The event sees a wide range of partners and organisations come together to advocate for children's right to play and demonstrates to families and the community how important play is for children</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>to thrive. The event has grown in strength since it first took place in Rhyl in 2015 with 2024 being the most successful year to date with over 3,000 people attending. Partners included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Army • Families First • Flying Start • Countryside Services • Denbighshire Leisure Limited • The Play Ranger Service • Childcare Development Team • Early Education • Youth Services • Barnardos • Family Information Service • North Wales Police • Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board • Healthy Schools and Preschools • Voel Coaches • Design to Smile • Rhyl Rugby Club • Christchurch School • North Wales Fire Service • RNLI • HM Coastguard 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junk Percussion • Morrisons • RSPB • Denbighshire Arts Service • Rhyl Town Council 		
81	Information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play is publicised	Green	Green	<p>The Play Ranger Service deliver play sessions in green open space and public parks which help to shape the community attitudes towards children’s play as they demonstrate advocacy for play.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service encourage members of the community to support children’s play and has worked with Meliden Football Club who have opened their club house facilities to provide drinks and refreshments to parents and families who are attending the sessions which are next to the football ground.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service regularly share information from Play Wales through their social media channels to contribute to positive community attitudes towards play. These are also shared to all childcare and play providers and schools.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have a range of</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>printed resources that can be given out to members of the community, parents, schools which promote play.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service has good relationships with community champions from Tesco, Coop and Morrisons and during 2024 featured in the Tesco Community Grant Blue Token Scheme in the Prestatyn Store and came second place with a £1,000 donation to the service.</p>		
82	Information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play is publicised	Amber	Green	<p>The Denbighshire Play Ranger Service have their own landing page on the Denbighshire County Council website which has information for parents and also sign posts to the Play Wales website where they can access the playful parents website for more support.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service share information on Facebook, Instagram and X. Information from Play Wales is regularly shared along with our own advice and tips for play.</p> <p>Information about open access play sessions are publicised on the Denbighshire County Council website and on all social media platforms.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>The Play Ranger Service have high visibility within local communities promoting play opportunities and also taking every opportunity to advocate for play where possible using their knowledge of play policies and Children's Rights.</p> <p>Email contacts for all parents are collected and kept on file and used for sharing information and support to encourage play opportunities.</p> <p>Integrated Families First and Flying Start circulate information about all the play opportunities available in Denbighshire via an internal team newsletter and to families via social media platform. Play ideas and activities are also distributed through social media and all IFFFS teams for all of the school holidays.</p>		
83	The local authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children	Amber	Amber	<p>The Play Ranger Service have recently reached out to Sound Radio (a local radio station) to feature in their community matters section of their show.</p> <p>Social media is regularly used to promote play</p>	More media engagement to promote play within the Town and	Discussions with local Town and Community Councils to further

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	playing in the local area			<p>with positive images of children in play used.</p> <p>Consent from parents is gained during open access play session and real life photos/videos of children engaging in the open access play sessions and events is regularly shared on social media platform and used in press releases.</p> <p>The local authority Public Relations Department distribute press releases to all relevant media outlets to promote play activities and events.</p>	Community Councils	promote play opportunities and encourage community engagement.
84	A comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce, as defined in the Statutory Guidance , has been undertaken	Green	Green	<p>The local authority continually reviews the demand and need for training requirements for the childcare and play workforce and uses information which is provided by CIW for the annual SASS (Self Assessment of Service Statement) on the size of the childcare and play workforce and the levels of qualifications in settings which is completed by all registered childcare and play settings. This helps us to identify what training is needed to enable the childcare and play workforce to achieve the necessary qualifications.</p> <p>Family Information Service source a suite of</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>training and qualifications as required by CIW which are accepted as recognised on the Playwork Education and Training Council for Wales List of required Qualifications for playwork and the Social Care Wales List of Required Qualifications. Training includes Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5 CCPLD and also Transitional Award to Playwork Level 3.</p> <p>Family Information Service subscribe to Dewis national training database which is specifically for Family Information Services in Wales to log and maintain training information relating to childcare and play settings.</p> <p>Play Wales webinars, workshops and awareness sessions are shared with all relevant officers within the local authority and wider with the childcare and play workforce whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play.</p> <p>Denbighshire County Council keeps a record of all staff within the playwork workforce in conjunction with Human resources.</p> <p>The local authority work closely with Adult</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>Learning Wales, Coleg Llandrillo, Coleg Cambria, Conwy County Borough Council and Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs to provide playwork qualifications.</p> <p>Within the Play Ranger Service, 7 staff have the L2APP qualifications with 3 staff working towards Level 3 Playwork qualifications, 2 staff hold Level 3 Playwork Qualifications and Level 3 MAHPS qualifications.</p> <p>Within the Integrated Children's Centre there are 2 members of staff trained to Level 2 Playwork, there are 6 members of staff trained to level 3 Playwork with an additional 3 members of staff working towards a level 3 qualification. There are 2 members of staff trained as Level 3 MAHPS (Managing a Holiday Playscheme)</p> <p>The Accessible Play Coordinator has completed the Agored Cymru Level 3 ADDaPT (Award in Delivering Dynamic Playwork Training) training with Play Wales which will help to implement a firm infrastructure for the level 2 and 3 Playwork: Principles into Practice (P3), Agored Cymru level 2 Award in Playwork Practice (L2APP)</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				and the Agored Cymru Level 3 in Managing a Holiday Play Scheme (MAHPS) qualification, ensuring a robust training and workforce development tier for playwork across Denbighshire and Wales.		
85	There is a variety of learning and development opportunities offered to staff so that they can consider their role in supporting play	Green	Green	<p>As in 84</p> <p>Play Ranger Service staff are continuously encouraged and supported to attend relevant training courses to improve knowledge and provide them with as many skills as possible to support children's play and be able to advocate for play, risk and challenge in a variety of settings and environments. Staff are paid for their time to attend training related to their work and to supporting play.</p> <p>Family Information Service provide an extensive, subsidised annual training programme for Childcare and Play Providers. These courses also help to ensure that the requirements for National Minimum Standards are met across all services such as safeguarding and First Aid qualifications.</p> <p>Family Information Service, Early Education, Flying Start and Childcare and Play Development team regularly source and</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				provide learning and development opportunities to childcare and play sector to further enhance their role to supporting play.		
86	There is a comprehensive range of continued professional development opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	Amber	Amber	<p>As above in 70</p> <p>The local authority provides opportunities for professionals to expand their CPD to be able to support children's play. This is offered through the workforce development team and sourced from external providers to support the needs of delivering meaningful Play Opportunities in the community. We value our staff and will always find ways to help them develop.</p> <p>The Accessible Play Coordinator has completed the ADDaPT qualification with Adult Learning Wales and Agored Cymru to be able to develop a suite of training to further support the play workforce across Denbighshire</p> <p>Family Information Service, Early Education, Flying Start and Childcare and Play Development team regularly source and provide learning and development opportunities to childcare and play sector to</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>further enhance their role to supporting play.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service, CWLWM organisations and Family Information Service regularly share training and development opportunities with professionals and childcare and play providers.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service have developed a Mini Play Rangers scheme for schools to buy in to work with groups of children in the school to develop their own Mini Play Ranger Team who will then following a 6 week programme of 'training' with the Play Rangers, continue to promote and deliver play opportunities at break times and use the loose parts stores previously funded by AWPOG in schools however these both ended in July 2024 due to budget restraints in schools.</p>	<p>Due to budget restraints in schools and schools in financial difficulty, this has restricted schools buying in any additional services to enhance extra-curricular opportunities.</p>	<p>Funding to support play advocacy in the school environment and for children to develop play skills from the Play Ranger Service and establish and embed a play led school.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
87	Play sufficiency and other training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	Green	Amber	<p>Play Sufficiency workshop delivered in January 2025 by Marianne Mannello from Play Wales. The Play Ranger Service invited all services and professionals whose work impacts children's play. List of attendees recorded and positive feedback received from participants, stating that they now have more of an understanding of the importance of play sufficiency and how their work streams contribute. Workshop activities helped with the understanding of how they can contribute to children's opportunities play in Denbighshire.</p> <p>Accessible Play Co Ordinator has completed the ADDaPT training which will enable Denbighshire to offer L2APP training courses and 'Let's Talk about Play' workshops. Currently professionals have completed play training delivered by other local authorities.</p> <p>Right to play workshops are offered through the Denbighshire Play Ranger Service.</p> <p>Mini Play Ranger programme delivered within schools to raise awareness and promote the importance of child lead play within schools.</p> <p>Play Wales webinars, workshops and</p>	Not all identified services / professionals who were invited were able to attend.	Continue to work in partnership with other departments and professional to raise the awareness of the importance of Play Sufficiency

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>awareness sessions are shared with all relevant officers within the local authority and wider with the childcare and play workforce whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play.</p> <p>The annual Childcare Conference held by Family Information Service and the Childcare Development team is now referred to as the Childcare and Play Conference. This was held in October 2024 with guest speakers including Marianne Mannello from Play Wales speaking about the importance of play and the role practitioners have in supporting access to a rich play environment.</p>		
88	Initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area, are promoted	Green	Green	<p>The Play Ranger Service promotes and signposts the young people and families we work with to initiatives to engage children in play opportunities. This is done through the social media, websites and through links to schools, partners and families.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service webpage on the Denbighshire County Council website directs people to the Play Wales website where parents and families can learn about play, find information and utilise the Playful Childhoods</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>website.</p> <p>The Play Ranger's 'Lets Play Out' peripatetic play session which run across the county are advertised on the Denbighshire County Council website and the links to the landing pages are widely shared via social media, schools, newsletters, bulk mail merge and QR codes are used to access the web page with ease.</p> <p>Get up and Get out is an Initiative to support year 6 children transitioning Into year 7.</p> <p>Work with young carers to ensure they are having opportunities to play.</p>		
89	There is a named person on the Local and Regional Public Service Board who champions children's play. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to, and are incorporated	Red	Green	<p>Nathania Minard – Play Development Officer for Conwy County Borough Council is the named Play Lead for North Wales and sits on the Children's Regional Partnership Board with the responsibility for championing children's right to play.</p> <p>All regional PSA's are collated and inform the Population Needs Assessment and Wellbeing plan however, the Wellbeing Assessment covers a wide variety of wellbeing needs, in</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	within, the Well-being Plan			<p>the current version Play only gets a brief mention in relation to children’s rights.</p> <p>The Accessible Play Coordinator works in close partnership with Nathania and co-deliver projects together in both Conwy and Denbighshire.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service completed an audit during early 2025 of play spaces across Denbighshire which included accessibility and disabled friendly equipment. This information will build a wider picture on the new Out and About Website hosted by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board due to go live in late 2025.</p>		
90	The local Public Health Team supports play and play sufficiency	New for 2025	Green	<p>The BCUHB Local Public Health Team actively responds to planning applications for residential developments of 50+ dwellings, advocating for the inclusion of accessible, age appropriate play areas and green infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement in planning and design consultations for new or refurbished schools, nurseries and care settings to promote outdoor access, including weather resilient features such as canopies and covered 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
				<p>walkways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy is aligned with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space, which emphasizes the importance of accessible play and recreational spaces as part of sustainable development. • Collaborative working with planning, education and housing departments to embed health and wellbeing considerations into local development plans and supplementary planning guidance. • BCULPHT input has influenced several recent developments to include natural play features, inclusive design and open access to green space. <p>Officers from the Local Public Health Team attend the local authority Childcare and Play Forum meetings and actively contribute to both the childcare and play agenda in Denbighshire.</p>		
91	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse	Green	Green	The local authority acknowledges the significant impact Adverse Childhood		

LA Ref No	Criteria	Previous PSA RAG Status*	Current PSA RAG Status*	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	What would address the shortfalls?
	Childhood Experiences recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities			<p>Experiences (ACEs) can have on a child's development and well-being. As a result, training and awareness initiatives related to ACEs have been implemented across multiple departments.</p> <p>The local authority recognises the therapeutic benefits of play for babies, children and young people who have experienced ACEs. The Senior Leadership Management team the Play Ranger offer across all departments in Children's Social Care, Education, Housing and Youth Support Services.</p> <p>The Play Ranger Service collaborates with other services to deliver play-based interventions aimed at mitigating the effects of ACEs.</p>		

Policy synergy, engagement, advocacy and information: Additional comments – F, G, H & I

The local authority has a sound understanding of play policy and its importance and strongly advocates for play with its vision of 'Making Denbighshire a Play Friendly Community'. The development over the last 4 years of the play service in Denbighshire has seen the importance of play and the recognition of children's play as a right is well recognised across the county. The value of play is continually considered across all agendas and there are excellent examples of how this is demonstrated such as National Play Day held each year in August since 2015 in Denbighshire with the 2024 event drawing over 3,000 people from

across the county and North Wales to engage in a fun, free day of play provided by a collaboration of partners and organisations who value and celebrate children's rights to play.

The local authority introduced the Play Ranger Service in the Summer of 2022, supporting the Summer of Fun program initially, has grown from strength to strength from then. The Play Ranger Let's Play Out open access play provision saw over 20,000 attendances in 2024, prior to the Play Ranger Service commencing the peripatetic Play Service in 2022, there was no other service in Denbighshire offering similar play opportunities to the children and young people in Denbighshire within their local communities. Seeing a growth in attendance figure to over 20,000 in a 2-year period demonstrates the excellence and passion for play advocacy and underpinning of play policies and agendas in Denbighshire.

The main challenges have been around financial restraints, more noticeably after the funding for Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing funding came to an end with no other funding stream to replace the established and well attended service. Schools value and engage well with the Play Ranger Service however cuts in school budgets and Pupil Deprivation Grants has meant that they can no longer buy in the service for their schools. This has been reported by some schools who have seen an increase in unwanted behaviours during play times and mirrors the behaviours seen at the open access play sessions and also areas of anti-social behaviours within the same areas.

To overcome the challenge and impact of reduced funding streams on how policy is further developed, increase engagement and advocacy of play in Denbighshire, there are several strategies that could help mitigate the issue including:

- Secure alternative funding streams through seeking grant opportunities from external organisations or health board
 - Advocate for the inclusion of the Play Ranger Service in local authority budgets as a preventative and early intervention service highlighting its impact on behaviour and wellbeing
 - Raising the profile of play corporately and with elected members
-
- Actions considered for Play Action Plan – 83, 86, 87
 - Actions agreed for Play Action Plan - 87

- Rationale for action prioritisation - The rationale for prioritising action 87 is because actions 83 and 86 outcomes will be covered by other actions prioritised in the previous sections. Action 87 raises the awareness of play sufficiency within all areas which will in turn improve the state of play in Denbighshire and increase the awareness of the importance of play across all agendas.