

Briefing Note Children's Play Area Schemes & Funding

Grant Funding Breakdown Children's Play Areas

The Authority conducted a comprehensive review of all playgrounds and reported to committee in December 2018. The report identified that any future "All Wales Play Opportunity Grants" (AWPOG) would be used to address the recommendations from the play area review.

An initial AWPOG of £117,000 was received in 2019/20 to support the implementing of Blaenau Gwent's "Play Sufficiency Action Plan". A report on this funding was included on the information pack for scrutiny on the 5th December 2019 and has been identified as phase 1 works.

In March 2020 the Council was notified by Welsh Government of a further allocation of funding, this funding had already been received by Blaenau Gwent in 2017/18, (£110,000), this funding had been initially allocated to a project for the creation of a "**Splash Pad**" facility in Blaenau Gwent. This has now been identified as phase 2 works.

Due to the need to resolve the funding issue during the Covid 19 lockdown period, the Managing Director, advised by both Director of Social Services & Director of Regeneration & Community Services, used delegated authority to approve the use of the funding to purchase a range/selection of play equipment as there was a risk of having the **Splash Pad** funding (£110,000) clawed back by Welsh Government.

The two elements of funding have now been allocated as follows;

Phase 1 - funding received £117,000 in 2019/20 from Welsh Government to commence the implementation of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan.

The following phase 1 play area sites to be upgraded were presented to scrutiny committee's information pack in February 2020 and are in line with the play area review undertaken and reported to committee in December 2018;

| Play Area Sites (Phase 1 works) | New Equipment to be Installed 2020 |
|---|--|
| Multi Use Games Area Fencing Six Bells Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade Boundary Fencing |
| Letchworth Rd. Ebbw Vale | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swingo• Multi Play Unit• 4-Way Springy |
| Central Park Blaina | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi Play Area |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Brynmawr Welfare Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classic Slide • Ariel Runway • Add Swing Bay |
| Williams Street Cwm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Slide • Inclusive Roundabout |
| Swffryd Play Area Abertillery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundabout • Free Rider |
| Bedwellty Pits Play Area Tredegar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Saw Springer |
| Costs Breakdown | |
| Play Sufficiency Officer Salary | £10,000 |
| Equipment Purchase | £68,150 |
| Installation Costs | £38,850 |
| Total Costs (Phase 1) | £117,000 |

Phase 2 - funding received (£110,000) in 2017/18 from Welsh Government to support the development of the **Splash Pad** Facility. Funding repurposed in March 2020 towards Play Sufficiency Action Plan.

The following phase 2 play area sites to be upgraded were presented to scrutiny committee on the 19th September 2020;

| Play Area Sites (Phase 2 works) | New Equipment to be Installed 2020 |
|--|---|
| Banna Park Nantyglo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Multi Play Unit (Replacement) • See Saw Springer • New Toddler Springers • Refurbishment of Swing Bays |
| Duffryn Park Blaina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New See Saw • New Free Rider/Swinger/Roundabout |
| Gelli Grug Park Abertillery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Multi Play Unit • New Free Ride Swingo • New Group Basket Swing |
| Brynmawr Welfare Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New toddler Unit |
| Warm Turn Play Area Abertillery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Spring Rocker • New See Saw • New See Saw Springy |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| New Rassau Park Ebbw Vale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Multi Play • New Free Ride/Swingo |
| Costs Breakdown | |
| Equipment Purchase | £65,150 |
| Installation Costs | £44,850 |
| Total Costs Phase 2 | £110,000 (repurposed Splash Pad Funding) |

The Council has also benefited from a further grant received from Welsh Government through the Valleys Regional Parks "Discovery Gateway Project" to support additional play facilities as follows;

| Play Area Sites (Additional) | New Equipment Installed 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Parc Bryn Bach Tredegar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total upgrading and installation of a new visitor play attraction. |
| Costs Breakdown | |
| Equipment Purchase and installation | £185,000 |
| Total Costs | £185,000 |

Phase 3 - Additionally, a further £62,000 was allocated through AWPOG funding in December 2020 to be spent by the 31st March 2021, which was a very tight deadline to achieve.

In line with the play area reports submitted to scrutiny and the executive and as the authority had conducted a comprehensive review of playgrounds in December 2018, where it was the intention that when this review was fully complete then AWPOG funding would be used to address the recommendations from the review.

The methodology used from the Playground Review 2018, has now been used to identify sites suitable for upgrading on a rolling programme and should future AWPOG funding be made available it could be easily allocated to priority play area works. This would also allow for implementation to be expedited should future funding require expenditure at short notice.

In line with the findings of the 2018 review, and now classed as phase 3 works, together with being as a Priority 2 site in the matrix, Abertillery park was identified as

the next play area for a full refurbishment to be undertaken utilising the additional £62,000 AWPOG funding.

| Play Area Sites (Phase 3 Works) | New Equipment Installed 2021 |
|--|--|
| Abertillery Park (Visit Play Area) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total upgrading and installation of a new visitor play area. |
| Costs Breakdown | |
| Equipment Purchase and installation | £62,000 |
| Total Costs | £62,000 |

Summary of Funding

The total funding allocation to children's play facilities is therefore as follows;

| From | Amount | Year Awarded |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Welsh Government AWPOG funding - phase 1 | £117,000 | (2019/20) |
| Welsh Government AWPOG funding (Splash Pad) – phase 2 | £110,000 | (2017/18) |
| Welsh Government Valleys Regional Park Grant – additional works phase 2 | £185,000 | (2018/19) |
| Welsh Government AWPOG funding - phase 3 | £62,000 | (2020/21) |
| Total Funding | £474,000 | |