

Record of Decisions

Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report 2022

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 13 December 2022.

Decision

That the Childcare Sufficiency Report for 2022, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The Childcare Act 2006 requires Torbay Council to report annually to Elected Members on the local arrangements to ensure those duties are met and a report is available and accessible for parents.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 28 December 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities to secure, so far as was reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who were studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

At the time of submission, the report established that there were sufficient early years childcare places to meet the requirements for funded children in Torbay. There was a potential oversupply in relation to funded places, meaning that there was sufficient capacity to accommodate children aged under 2 and children from outside of the Torbay area.

The report was presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board on 21 November 2022. The Sub-Board recommended that the Cabinet approve the submitted Childcare Duty Sufficiency Report subject to inclusion of the national average of women smoking during pregnancy and consideration being given to future reports including statistics around women vaping during pregnancy. Prior to consideration by the Cabinet, the Childcare Duty Sufficiency Report had been updated to include the national averages and the Cabinet were advised work will be conducted to assess the viability of collecting data on vaping for the 2023 sufficiency report.

At the meeting, Councillor Law proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

16 December 2022

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet