

GRANT PROJECT REPORT

1.4.2018 – 31.3.2019



Clybiau
Plant
Cymru



KIDS' CLUBS



Early Years
Wales
Blynyddoedd
Cynnar Cymru

 **mudiad
meithrin**
arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar
Welsh early years specialists

NDNA*

Cymru
National Day Nurseries Association

pacey | CYMRU

PROJECT DETAILS:

Name of Lead Organisation:

Mudiad Meithrin (MM)

Lead Organisation Contact Details:

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Chief Executive, Y Ganolfan Integredig, Boulevard de Saint Brieuc, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1PD

Partners' Names:

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC)

Early Years Wales (EYW) (formerly known as Wales Pre-School Providers Association (Wales PPA)

Mudiad Meithrin (MM)

National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA Cymru)

Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years Cymru (PACEY Cymru)

Project Title:

CWLWM: Childcare in Wales Learning and Working Mutually

Project Duration:

1.10.2014 – 31.3.2019

Total Grant Amount Received for the period 1.10.2014 – 31.3.2019

£7,433,700.80

Reporting Period:

1.4.2018 – 31.3.2019

Grant Amount Received for the period 1.4.2018 – 31.3.2019:

£1,634,410 - for 12 months

£750,000 – additional funding

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1. BACKGROUND

Cwlwm brings together the five leading childcare organisations in Wales to deliver a bilingual integrated service that ensures the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales within the Welsh Government's 'whole-system' approach.

Cwlwm, led by Mudiad Meithrin in partnership with Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC), National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA Cymru), Professional Association for Childcare (PACEY Cymru) and Early Years Wales (formerly known as Wales PPA), brings together the ability, based on a wealth of experience, to tackle issues within the Childcare and Play sector. These include but are not restricted to: sustainability, workforce development and gaps in childcare provision, especially as far as Welsh-medium childcare/play and provision in rural areas are concerned. By working together, innovative solutions to flexible childcare and play opportunities, and wrap-around care to meet the needs of parents and families in all parts of Wales is achieved.

Cwlwm brings a multi-agency integrated and bilingual approach to development, support, advice and training. This co-ordinated strategic approach ensures consistency in quality and efficiencies in support, guidance and delivers innovative solutions to local needs.

Cwlwm:

- Works on a **Wales wide basis**, to offer support, including business support, guidance and advice to Childcare and Play settings, with the aim of sustaining provision.
- Examines the **development** needs of the Childcare and Play **workforce** and works collaboratively to provide opportunities to fulfil their training needs.
- **Identifies gaps** in Childcare and Play provision across Wales and finds solutions to those gaps, including innovative solutions around **rurality, poverty and the Welsh language**.
- Works together, to establish the best possible solutions for **flexible childcare** in any one locality.
- Reviews challenges and discovers **solutions** to those challenges by working co-operatively.
- **Represents** the childcare sector on local, regional and national committees concerned with childcare and play.
- Through regular partnership meetings, ensures **consistency in quality and efficiencies** in support, guidance and solutions to challenges.
- Works together to **seek funding** to enhance the support and resources available to the Childcare and Play sector.
- **Works collaboratively** with Local Authorities and Family Information Services to ensure families in Wales benefit from accessing affordable, sustainable and high quality childcare and play opportunities.

2. INTRODUCTION

Having established and developed a strong and successful working relationship within Cwlwm (2014-2018) to achieve objectives for children and families in Wales, the new business plan developed for Cwlwm (2018-2019) focused on the following areas of work in order to support members and non-members of the Cwlwm partnership organisations.

- Promoting the Childcare Offer
- Workforce Development and Training
- Delivering Business Support
- Contributing to work related to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
- Supporting the Additional Learning Needs and Education (Wales) Tribunal Act
- Reviewing the National Minimum Standards
- Contributing to realising 'Cymraeg 2050' targets

A 'whole sector approach' was used in order to reach the target audience of Early Years, Childcare and Play sector in Wales, which included working in partnership with:

- Welsh Government
- Local Authorities
- AWARE
- Social Care Wales
- Care Inspectorate Wales
- Business Wales
- Providers and stakeholders of individual organisations

As evidence to support the award of funding in relation to the Cwlwm Childcare Consortium, partners provided quarterly, narrative monitoring reports to Welsh Government. These reports included qualitative and quantitative evidence to support the areas of work achieved by Cwlwm. The Monitoring Report consisted of four parts:

1. Monitoring information on work achieved **individually** by the 5 organisations relating solely to Cwlwm targets and work
2. Monitoring information on the **joint** strategic work of the Cwlwm partners, e.g. work relating to Welsh Government policy
3. Information on the day to day work carried out by Cwlwm partners
4. Information on the work carried out by Cwlwm partners, funded by other sources, e.g. Local Authority Grants. This information identified the extra work carried out in addition to Cwlwm funding and clearly illustrated to other funders how their financial contributions contributed to and enriched the work of the sector.

3. CWLWM's OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

For the purpose of this report, the information provided with regards to Cwlwm's objectives and achievements, concentrates on the **joint** strategic work of the partners.

Objective 1: Childcare Offer: Support the Welsh Government during the second wave of the Childcare Offer pilot phase:	
Target	Achievement
Hold 5 information surgeries in conjunction with AWARE, with the involvement of all providers across the childcare sector.	<p>Throughout the year, Cwlwm partners continued to support Welsh Government (as and when required), to allow for the second wave of the Childcare Offer pilot phase.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners participated in the Childcare Offer engagement events in Conwy, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Powys, Merthyr, and Cardiff to promote and help prepare providers for roll out of the Offer in the county during 2018/19.</p> <p>Following the events, Local Authority representatives noted: <i>"The working relationships with CWLWM partners is positive and supportive, all partners have attended every engagement event to support the delivery with the providers and continue that support on the ground. We are looking forward to further roll out within Conwy County Borough in due course to ensure families reap the benefits of accessing affordable, accessible and sustainable childcare."</i></p>
Work with WG and AWARE to develop a series of guidelines in relation to the Childcare Offer, including a Childcare Offer toolkit	<p>Cwlwm partners formed a panel that gave evidence to the Welsh Assembly's 'Children, Young People and Education Committee' at the Senedd on the 'Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill' which looked at the mechanism of using HMRC to check the eligibility of parents/carers looking to access Childcare Offer funding in Wales.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners also used the consultation and the session to raise other areas of interest linked to the Childcare Offer for Wales, including the current issues around related children and childminders and the variable rates payable for funded settings for Foundation Phase and Childcare Offer provision.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners worked together to submit a joint consultation response that formed the basis for the session alongside individual organisation responses. Cwlwm partners shared their views and responded to</p>

	questioning from Assembly Members (AMs) on the Bill where Cwlwm partners worked collaboratively in a joined up approach to give strength to the points and issues raised.
Develop and illustrate one e-newsletter containing relevant information about the Childcare Offer for distribution in the childcare and play sector.	<p>Cwlwm partners promoted all Childcare Offer information developed by Welsh Government during the year. Relevant information was shared via Cwlwm's Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019 Newsletter and through all social media communication channels. The Childcare Offer articles provided information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme • Early Implementation of the Childcare Offer • Talk childcare Campaign • One year on...Childcare Offer for Wales results of the Arad and NatCen research
In conjunction with the Welsh Government and the Local Authorities, prepare for the second wave of areas to come under the Childcare Offer by creating a single information newsletter under the Cwlwm banner, and actively engaging with the Welsh Government's wider #TalkChildcare campaign.	<p>Cwlwm partners actively engaged with the Welsh Government's #TalkChildcare campaign and encouraged its members to attend all planned events. All events were widely promoted through Cwlwm's partners' various social media communication channels. Each event was attended by at least one Cwlwm partner in order to represent the sector and cascade information to staff within the organisations to support the implementation of the Offer.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners worked closely with those Local Authorities submitting an application to the 'Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme' to ensure that the needs of the sector were considered, and to support the wider objectives of the programme.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners collated information around the funding rates of the Foundation Phase throughout Wales and submitted a paper to the National Assembly for Wales on their findings.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners actively promoted the second wave of areas to come under the Childcare Offer by including information within its newsletters.</p>
Attend meetings and represent the sector	<p>Cwlwm partners ensured that local, regional and national meetings were attended in order to represent the sector and its views regarding the Childcare Offer.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners attended the Welsh Government's Childcare Offer stakeholder group at the end of November 2018. At the event the findings of the Evaluation of the Early Implementation of the Childcare Offer for Wales research was presented; the evaluation involved Cwlwm partners being interviewed and contributing to the findings.</p>

Cwlwm partners achieved these targets, which means:

- That the voice of the sector was represented in local, regional and national discussions
- That the Childcare Offer programme was promoted and advanced across the wider sector and in the pilot areas
- Provisions were made aware of the benefits of Childcare Offer programme by encouraging its members to participate in planned events and by sharing all relevant information through its social media channels and newsletters.

Objective 2: Workforce Development and Training: Support the key elements of the Welsh Government's Childcare, Play and Early Years Workforce Plan:

<p>In partnership with Social Care Wales, promote and raise awareness of the new suite of qualifications to the childcare, play and early year's workforce and continue to represent the sector by supporting their development and achievement.</p>	<p>During the year, Cwlwm partners actively promoted and raised awareness of the new suite of qualifications by ensuring that any new developments and achievements were shared with the sector via social media communication channels, websites, newsletters etc.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners ensured that the sector's voice regarding the development of the new qualifications was heard by working closely with Social Care Wales, City & Guilds, WJEC, Qualifications Wales and other stakeholders. By working closely with these organisations, Cwlwm partners, utilising their strong skills and expertise, were able to provide constructive advice and detailed feedback on every aspect of the suite of qualifications.</p>
<p>Support the development of the ESF Progress for Success (PfS) Programme and raise awareness of the programme and the funding available to help the childcare, play and early year's workforce to improve skills.</p>	<p>During the year, the PfS programme remained under development, however Cwlwm partners attended relevant meetings as and when held, which provided an insight on future developments. All information received from such meetings was shared with the sector.</p>
<p>Promote and stimulate demand on the take up on the Apprenticeship Programme amongst the childcare, play and early year's workforce.</p>	<p>Throughout the year, Cwlwm partners promoted and stimulated demand regarding the Apprenticeship programme amongst the workforce in various individual ways. PACEY Cymru worked closely with Educ8 who deliver apprenticeships in Wales to ensure that childminders have access to quality, relevant training that is appropriate for their needs, experiences/skills and unique settings. NDNA Cymru worked closely with their supported employment Childcare Works programme in North and South Wales. Early Years Wales published a comprehensive article promoting Childcare Apprenticeships in the Winter edition of their members' magazine. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs continued to recruit and train new Playwork Apprentices through emails, social media and face to face contact.</p>
<p>Participate in engagement and consultation processes to support the introduction of the new qualifications.</p>	<p>The formal consultation regarding the new qualifications did not occur during the year, however Cwlwm partners contributed to numerous consultation events regarding the</p>

	new qualifications and provided expert advice and feedback regarding the qualifications.
Work in partnership with Social Care Wales to develop a national training programme to support the new qualifications and wider opportunities for CPD through specialist pathways and progression routes.	<p>During the year, Cwlwm partners engaged with Social Care Wales on the 'Gofalwn / We Care' campaign by attending meetings to discuss developments and plans around the campaign launch. Cwlwm partners provided feedback to Social Care Wales on the proposed concepts for the campaign which influenced final decisions. The campaign was promoted throughout the sector via social media channels, websites and articles within Cwlwm's newsletters.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners continued to attend meetings with Social Care Wales to voice the training needs of the sector so that these could be taken into consideration during the development of the national training programme.</p>
Work in partnership with SkillsActive and other partners to support the play sector as appropriate, including consideration of their qualifications needs.	<p>Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, with the support of Cwlwm partners campaigned to reinstate the Level 5 Diploma in Advanced Playwork (Wales), the only Level 5 Playwork qualification available on the Apprenticeship Framework and thus the only funded route to achieving this qualification in Wales. Communication and bringing concerns to the attention of the awarding body (NCFE CACHE) and PETC resulted in the Awarding Body agreeing to reinstate the qualification and applying to Qualifications Wales for its extension. They are awaiting confirmation, however the uptake of this qualification, if extended, will be reviewed in August 2020 to ensure it is still viable for NCFE CACHE.</p> <p>Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs continued to work with Welsh Government to ensure that there was clarity for the sector with regards to the requirement of all settings offering Out of School Childcare to have staff trained in Playwork. A meeting in March 2019, to discuss the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from the sector sought agreement from all partners and work to develop an easy read document.</p>
<p>Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector have helped to inform the development of the new qualifications • That help and support to access the right training has been provided • That as and when the new qualifications are delivered, they will be widely promoted across the sector and the workforce to advance qualification and upskilling • That the workforce will continue to improve and raise skills in order to contribute to improving quality across the childcare and play settings 	

Objective 3: Business Support: Gain a better understanding of the business support landscape for the sector and to ensure appropriate support:

<p>Identify gaps, areas of duplication, recognise strengths and expertise and consider what improvements can be made in exploring future ways of collaborative working and cross referral mechanisms.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners continued to work with Business Wales and Local Authorities to gain a better understanding of the business support landscape available to the sector. Cwlwm partners completed a mapping exercise which detailed the level of business support offered by individual partners; this information was shared with Business Wales.</p>
<p>Identify and consider the most appropriate support mechanisms and approaches to meeting the needs of childcare providers, in line with the findings of the business networking events.</p>	<p>Following business support networking events held, Cwlwm partners analysed the data and grouped the areas that required improvement into specific categories, being: Business Support, Welsh Language, Regulations, Childcare Offer and Workforce. This exercise identified actions for either Cwlwm partners, Business Wales or Local Authorities. Cwlwm partners subsequently published informative articles on these specific categories within their newsletters.</p>
<p>Analyse the findings of the business support networking events and consider what improvements can be made to the provision of joint support services.</p>	<p>Following these exercises, Cwlwm partners presented the above information to Carmel Barry (who was appointed by Welsh Government to support Cwlwm to map out the range of business support available). Carmel is currently in the process of identifying, categorising and summarising all sources of support in line with specific business support category headings. This work is still ongoing, however the end goal is that all information will be made available to Business Wales, Cwlwm and Local Authorities so that they know who to approach for various support on behalf of settings.</p>
<p>In partnership with Business Wales and Local Authorities, develop the most appropriate structure, on a Local Authority area basis, to identify existing support and agree a process of referral between business collaborative support services.</p>	<p>Following these exercises, Cwlwm partners presented the above information to Carmel Barry (who was appointed by Welsh Government to support Cwlwm to map out the range of business support available). Carmel is currently in the process of identifying, categorising and summarising all sources of support in line with specific business support category headings. This work is still ongoing, however the end goal is that all information will be made available to Business Wales, Cwlwm and Local Authorities so that they know who to approach for various support on behalf of settings.</p>
<p>Share information obtained at local and national levels through the Cwlwm website and social media.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners shared all relevant information regarding business support updates and events through all social media channels, Cwlwm website and newsletters. Information included The Childcare Offer, Brexit, Business Wales Childcare Grant, Pensions update, Developing Good Employment Relations etc.</p>

Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:

- That the sector have a better understanding of the business support landscape available to them as providers
- That duplication of work will be reduced at local and national levels
- That there will be a clear structure in place for referring the sector to the appropriate support providers

Objective 4: Work related to CIW: Support the effort to raise quality across the sector:

<p>Support CIW in promoting and publicising childcare provision ratings, as part of quality assurance and improvement processes and provide sector input and feedback to support the process.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners worked closely with CIW to gather evidence on the implementation of ratings for childcare and play settings.</p> <p>A short four question rating survey for childcare and play providers was developed and promoted. 108 responses were received and 96% stated that the reasons for the ratings were clearly explained and 76% agreed with the ratings given.</p> <p>Additional feedback received from the survey was shared with CIW to support the ongoing development of ratings and the approach.</p> <p>During the year Cwlwm representatives attended CIW Provider Engagement events and contributed to workshops on the ratings implementation. Details of all developments with regards to ratings were published on the Cwlwm website and through Cwlwm's social media platforms.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners continued to meet regularly with CIW to discuss all national issues, including concerns and benefits of the provision ratings raised by the sector.</p>
<p>Provide feedback and testing of online services, including the move to online registration.</p>	<p>Cwlwm representatives attended a CIW meeting on testing the online services during November and provided detailed feedback on all aspects.</p>
<p>Work with CIW to develop a FAQ document to support changes to DBS in 2018 if the need is identified.</p>	<p>PACEY Cymru represented Cwlwm by working with CIW to develop guidance and FAQ's. Following confirmation on a number of key points, CIW published revised guidance and answers to some FAQ in relation to DBS checks relevant to all childcare and play providers in Wales which included details of future payments to DBS checks.</p>
<p>Support CIW in gathering children's and parents' voices through the use of online questionnaires.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners contributed to the design of the parent/ staff/child online questionnaires and provided final feedback on these questionnaires during six engagement events held by CIW across Wales.</p>
<p>Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the voice of the sector was represented in national discussions with CIW • Welfare, safety and quality consideration have been central when inspecting and reporting on the quality of childcare and play provisions 	

Objective 5: ALN and Tribunal Bill (now Act): Following the publication of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Education Tribunal (Wales), support the Welsh Government and the Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector to:

<p>Co-ordinate and represent the sector on all relevant forums to develop practices relating to the Bill (now Act).</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners attended all relevant forums to develop practices relating to the Bill. Following the attendance of the ALN Innovation Fund Day – Early Years, a concern was raised regarding the early identification of speech and language difficulties. It was noted that none of the projects looked at the 0-3 age range and that all projects concentrated on children of school age only. This was brought to the attention of Welsh Government and a request was made to set up a smaller task group to look at the 0-3 age group which covered pre foundation phase as well as education.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners responded jointly to the ALN consultation – Draft Additional Learning Needs Code. Partners also attended consultation events throughout Wales during February which allowed them to provide information into the overall Cwlwm consultation response in addition to supporting engagement and growth of knowledge.</p>
<p>Work with the Welsh Government to inform the development of awareness raising materials and resources for the Bill (now Act) and the implications for the non-maintained sector.</p>	<p>Throughout the year Cwlwm partners worked with Welsh Government’s ALN team and have shared all relevant information / guidance with the sector through the use of websites and social media platforms.</p> <p>Cwlwm partners agreed to review a suite of Early Years materials in order to gauge suitability and feedback was provided to WG.</p>
<p>Undertake mapping work of ALN provision across the sector, to include an analysis of issues and barriers faced by childcare providers, and an analysis of current support tools.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners completed the mapping work of ALN provisions across the sector and information was presented to Welsh Government. The information given provided an overview of the provisions that partners were funded to manage themselves in addition to information that was available locally. Cwlwm partners noted that it had been challenging to gain a full picture of the availability of provisions and how provisions were accessed by parents. Cwlwm partners suggested that going forward it would be beneficial to them if they could access coordinated information about ALN provision so that they could signpost and support all members.</p>
<p>Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act was promoted cross the sector and the workforce ensuring that providers were supported in understanding its implications and were prepared for the changes ahead • That the voice of the sector was represented in local, regional and national discussions with Welsh Government • That the sector were able to consult with children and parents to ensure that their voices were represented and heard in quality childcare and play provisions • The sector is equipped with the knowledge and understanding to improve within their settings 	

Objective 6: National Minimum Standards: Support Welsh Government to review NMS:

<p>Support the Welsh Government by seeking the views of Early Years, Childcare and Playwork providers to inform a review of the National Minimum Standards.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners worked closely with Welsh Government on questions for an online survey to seek the views of providers on the NMS. The link to the survey was included on the Cwlwm website and social media platforms in addition to an article being included in the Cwlwm newsletter. Cwlwm partners gathered and collated the view of the sector and prepared a detailed and comprehensive report to Welsh Government on their findings.</p>
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<p>Attend local, regional and national meetings to represent the sector.</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners continued to work with Welsh Government to ensure that the voice of the sector was represented with regards to the NMS review.</p> <p>Anne Pound attended a Cwlwm meeting during March and gave an update of NMS review. Cwlwm partners were given an opportunity to discuss the findings and to raise any concerns.</p>
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Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:

- The voice of the sector was represented in regional and national discussions with the Welsh Government
- Welfare, safety and quality consideration have been central to Childcare and Playwork provisions
- Practitioners have been empowered to participate in the development of the NMS and this will support them to implement changes

Objective 7: ‘Cymraeg 2050’ – Following the publication of the Welsh Government’s new Welsh language strategy, support their ambitions target of having a million Welsh-speakers by 2050:

<p>Develop the use of Welsh across the Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners worked with the National Centre for Learning Welsh (NCLW) to develop an understanding of the range of skills and Welsh language training needs of the workforce across Wales in order to inform the development and the provision of sector specific Welsh-language courses.</p> <p>The workforce were encouraged to use the ‘<i>Learn Welsh Level Checker</i>’; a tool used to provide a comprehensive easy to understand, indication of each individual’s Welsh language skills. The ‘<i>Learn Welsh Level Checker</i>’ allowed each participant to better understand their current Welsh language skill level in addition to allowing employers to obtain an overview of their employees Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Between April 2018 and February 2019, 753 individuals from a cross-section of the Early Years, Childcare and Playwork workforce successfully created individual</p>
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	<p>accounts on the Learn Welsh website and completed one or more of the four distinct skills tests. Also during the year, Cwlwm partners supported the pilot of training courses in North and South Wales which consisted of eight childcare and one Playwork course. The courses piloted were split into five different learning models and four different levels, being entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced; approximately 65 individuals accessed the pilot courses.</p> <p>All relevant data was forwarded to NCLW. NCLW will finalise a series of courses for Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector during 2019. These courses will provide a progression route for the workforce to develop their work related Welsh language skills.</p> <p>In addition, Cwlwm partners recruited (or were in the process of recruiting) Welsh Language Support Coordinators, funded by NCLW to support the development of Welsh language skills within the workforce.</p>
<p>Increase capacity in Welsh language provision.</p>	<p>All Cwlwm partners continued to work tirelessly to increase capacity in Welsh language provisions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening new provisions • Extending opening hours • Providing wraparound care • 7 new Cylchoedd Meithrin opened outside of Mudiad Meithrin's Sefydlu and Symud project. <p>Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs opened 4 New Out of School Childcare Clubs through Childcare and Play projects</p>
<p>Cwlwm partners have achieved these targets, which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is evidence for creating and providing a range of language resources for day-to day use in childcare and play provisions • Training programmes funded and co-ordinated by the National Centre for Learning Welsh to provide language training across the continuum are supported • There will be an increase in the use of Welsh in more English - medium / bilingual settings 	
<p>Additional Funding: To support Cwlwm in meeting additional demands on the consortium including Brexit preparations, the Early Childhood Education and Care agenda and working with the childcare and play sector to utilise capital funding available under the Childcare Offer:</p>	
<p>Brexit preparations</p>	<p>Cwlwm partners supported and represented the sector by providing up to date information via newsletters and social media on the ever changing situation with Brexit. Meetings were held with WCVA to discuss the impact of Brexit on the Childcare and play sector and work is continuing to monitor any impact that Brexit is or may have on the workforce.</p>
<p>The Early Childhood Education and care agenda</p>	<p>WG attended a Cwlwm meeting in March and gave a presentation on the ECEC agenda. Cwlwm will continue to work with WG to raise awareness of and drive this agenda</p>

	as the strategy is developed and represent the sector at national and regional meetings as and when.
Capital funding available under the Childcare Offer	Cwlwm partners supported providers with applying for the Local Authority capital grants. Cwlwm provided input into the application forms and represented the sector on funding panels within some Local Authorities.
Capacity	Cwlwm partners' costs increased whilst income remained comparatively level. Cwlwm continued to invest in strengthening infrastructure, organisational resilience and capacity in order to better their offer to members, settings and the sector in general.