



Inspection Report

Blaenllechau Youth Project

**The Welfare Hall
Rear Of 17-21 Long Row
Blaenllechau
Ferndale
CF43 4NP**



Date Inspection Completed

26/07/2023

About Blaenllechau Youth Project

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Open Access Play Provision
Registered Provider	The Committee of Blaenllechau Youth Project
Registered places	30
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 August 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	[Manual Insert] No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are happy, confident, and relaxed at this playscheme. They have freedom to play and choose from an engaging range of activities. Children manage their own time and move freely around the setting choosing what they want to do.

This is an open access playscheme that operates during school holidays. All the staff have worked at the playscheme for many years and know the children well. They work well together to keep children safe whilst enabling them to play freely. Staff interactions with children are consistently good. They are available to children if they want or need help.

The environment is suitably safe and meets the needs of the children attending. There is indoor and outdoor play space with a good array of resources suitable for a range of ages and interests.

Overall, leaders run the playscheme effectively. A manager is in day-to-day charge and is supported by a board of trustees. They work well together, have clear aims and develop a positive ethos. They have systems in place to gather relevant information about children attending and to monitor the number of children on site. However, we found leaders do not always have required documentation in place and some is out of date or lacks detail.

Well-being**Good**

Children are completely free to choose how they spend their time at the playscheme. They successfully develop their ability to make decisions about what they do and how they do it. They are confident communicators, expressing their views and contributing ideas knowing staff will listen to them and take their views into account. For example, when deciding what game they want to play and suggesting rules for the game.

Children are very happy and settled at the playscheme. They move around freely and confidently. Children play well together in groups both large and small as they play hide and seek or make things at the craft table. They have a sense of belonging and form strong relationships with each other and staff.

Children behave well. Interactions between each other and staff are warm and friendly. Children know they can ask staff to help them if there are upsets. They are encouraged to share and take turns and learn to think about solutions to their problems. As a result, children are learning to manage their own behaviour and look after themselves and each other.

Children enjoy their play. There are no constraints on them except where necessary to keep them safe. As a result, they spend extended periods engaged in the activities they choose. For example, finishing a game of pool, playing with small world resources or on electronic games. We saw a large group of children spend over an hour playing games with jump ropes which they kept extending into another game. They worked with a member of staff and each other to decide what they did next and patiently waited their turn in the game. Children we spoke to all said they love coming to the playscheme and come every day.

Children have good opportunities to learn and develop through their play. Activities support areas such as physical development, risk taking, creativity, language development and problem solving. Children develop social skills, confidence, and self-help skills as they learn to take responsibility for themselves, their choices, and their actions.

Care and Development

Good

Staff work well together to keep children safe. They understand their responsibility to protect children and staff spoken to were confident in what they would do if they had any concerns. All staff have completed safeguarding training. There is a child protection policy in place but this lacks detail and contains out of date guidance. There is a first aid kit on site and enough staff have paediatric first aid training. Staff complete relevant accident forms and send copies home for parents, although they contact parents directly for more significant accidents such as head bumps. Leaders gather information about children's health needs such as allergies or medical conditions although as an open access playscheme they are not required to. However, this information sometimes lacks sufficient detail and they do not have a system for recording if they should have to administer essential medication such as an inhaler or autoinjector. Staff encourage a healthy lifestyle with plenty of opportunities for active play and outdoor play. They provide snacks such as fruit and cereal bars and continual access to drinks.

Staff interactions are very positive, they demonstrate genuine friendliness, warmth, and kindness creating a relaxed atmosphere. They encourage and promote positive behaviour. Staff act as good role models to children; they listen to and respect children's views and act on them accordingly. For example, they listen when children approach them with problems and help them think about how they can resolve them.

Staff support and promote children's learning and development well through a range of interesting, open ended play opportunities. For example, when supporting the game with jump ropes, staff helped children develop it in ways that provided challenge for all age groups. As a result, they help children learn to adapt to and be considerate of the needs of others. Staff also plan some activities for children, often around themes such as Earth Day, Halloween, or St Davids Day. All the staff have worked at the playscheme for many years and children return to the playscheme over several years. Consequently, they get to know each other well. We did not hear any Welsh used during our visit. Staff are alert to recognising children who may need additional support to access the playscheme. They are proactive at working with the local authority to provide this support.

Environment**Good**

The playscheme has sole use of the premises it operates from. The site is suitably safe with regular checks carried out for firefighting equipment, emergency lighting and gas safety. This is an open access playscheme and therefore children can come and go as they wish. However, staff record children's presence at the playscheme and ask them to let staff know if they want to leave. Staff contact the parents of younger children to let them know. Very few children leave the site during sessions and the usual practice is for parents to drop off and collect younger ones. The register of attendance did not include a means of recording if a child left. Since the inspection visit, they have amended their procedures to include this. Staff record visitors to the site. Suitable risk assessments are in place. Daily safety checks and cleaning routines are in place. Leaders ensure they carry out and record regular monthly evacuation drills.

The playscheme provides a good environment for play and learning. There is enough space for children to move around and play. Some areas are set up for dedicated activities such as the pool table, craft area or quieter area which has books and a games console. Large crash mats are available for children to play more physically. Independence is promoted as children can move things around as they wish. They know what is available and can ask for resources they want if they are not readily to hand. Staff have created several attractive displays linked to supporting emotional well-being, mental health awareness and diversity. There is a small outdoor area to the front of the building which children can freely access. It is sufficiently well resourced and provides further opportunities for play and learning.

Leaders ensure resources and equipment are generally in good condition and suitable for the children attending. They provide a reasonable range of activities on a tight budget and support children to use equipment imaginatively and flexibly.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

Leaders have a clear vision for the playscheme. They work well with staff to promote a culture of safety and support for children through providing a safe place to play during school holidays. They produce a Statement of Purpose that informs parents how the setting runs and includes key policies. However, the Statement of Purpose does not accurately reflect who the registered provider is. Leaders have not reviewed or revised policies and paperwork to ensure they all contain sufficient detail or up to date information and legislation to fully support the running of the playscheme.

Leaders carry out an annual quality of care review of the playscheme and produce a report. They seek the views of parents and children to help inform their review which were all very positive. Staff views are gathered informally on an on-going basis. The report is evaluative and accurately identifies areas they would like to improve or develop.

There is a small staff team who have all been at the playscheme for many years. They are well qualified and experienced. Those spoken to told us they enjoy working at the setting and feel well supported. They attend periodic staff meetings to discuss the playscheme. However, leaders do not carry out regular supervision or appraisal meetings with staff. Although they have identified this as an area for development in their most recent quality of care review, they have not yet put a system in place. Whilst no immediate action is needed, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders ensure all mandatory checks and training such as paediatric first aid and safeguarding are kept up to date.

Leaders and staff make good relationships with parents. They put in place registration forms for each child to gather contact numbers and other relevant information. The playscheme is free to families. Leaders work well with the local authority and local businesses to secure funding and sponsorship to run the playscheme which they use effectively.

Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people’s well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Priority Action Notice(s)

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
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29	The provider must ensure they put in place a regular system of staff supervision and appraisal that effectively supports them to carry out or develop their role.	New
15	Update the statement of purpose with the correct opening times, staffing, routines and numbers of children registered for.	Achieved

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Ensure policies, procedures and documentation are reviewed, revised or put in place to support the efficient and safe running of the playscheme.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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