

Case study: The impact of rising costs without an increase in Welsh Government funding. Pontymoile under 5's Torfaen

Pontymoile under-fives are based in Pontypool, Torfaen. They offer wrap around service to and from various schools. A Flying start provider, non-maintained nursery and Childcare Offer.

Business performance

With the majority of our funding coming from Government schemes (Flying Start/ Non-maintained nursery/ Childcare Offer) we have just broken even this past year 2022-23. I am astounded at the disparities across Wales between Local Authorities and their financial commitments to the childcare sector. How can Welsh Government possibly expect to achieve a successful rollout of their pledge for funded places for all 2 year olds with such disparities?

With the huge increase in National Minimum Wage (NMW) from April 24 coupled with the inevitable increase from this in Employer National Insurance (NI) and pension contributions, together with rent increases due to utilities costs and then food costs the future looks unsustainable for our settings. A small proportion of our funding comes from parents. Any increase we pass on to their fees will not make a difference to sustainability and the UK press already vilifies childcare as the most expensive.

With regards to the Childcare Offer funding rate, we need a substantial rise in government funding just to cover our costs and give us a cushion for the unexpected, not to generate a profit.

Grants

We are grateful for the Childcare grants that we have been able to access through Local Authorities post-covid. However, the criteria laid down did not allow us to focus on what we needed most and as usual no-one asked Childcare providers for their opinion on what their priorities might be.

We have some lovely furniture but that doesn't pay staff wages!

Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The rise in the number of children with suspected or confirmed ALN is huge. We have the desire and the experience to want to offer places to children with additional needs and are proud of our commitment to this but there is the greater additional financial burden to settings. This includes additional well-qualified staff needed in ratio, admin support to attend meetings, produce Person-centred practice (PCPs) and additional documentation and ensuring effective transitions.

We are determined to maintain high standards, to provide high quality effective environments, to employ and train enabling adults, supporting their professional development to provide engaging experiences for all our children.

Sustainability worries

Running costs such as gas, electricity, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and craft supplies have risen by 50%. National Minimum Wage / National Living Wage has risen by around 10% from 2022/23 to 2023/24 and then for 24/25 the Living Wage is £11.44 from April 2024. This will mean a projected increase in wages to maintain differentials of at least £600 per week or £30,000 per year when increased Employer NI & pension contributions are factored in.

We understand that Local Authorities are facing financial difficulties but without Welsh Government guidance on funding, how is this pledge achievable when it is left up to individual authorities to decide what weight it carries in their budget agendas? We understand that there is a very mixed economy with structures of childcare settings but that is irrelevant as without funding increases, they will all be unsustainable.

If Welsh Government are serious about funded places for 2 year olds and not just 'electioneering' funding rates need to be increased now, not in a year's time when many settings have closed due to budget impossibilities.

I have sleepless nights worrying how we can sustain this, and I think without increases in funding rates through all the streams of education and care we provide we will not be able to.

Isobel Yacomen, Pontymoile Under 5's.

Case study: The impact of rising costs on them without an increase in Welsh Government funding. V0.1 – JULY 2024.

Astudiaeth Achos: Effaith costau cynyddol heb gynnydd yng nghyllid Llywodraeth Cymru, lleoliad gofal plant Pontymoile i blant dan 5 oed, Torfaen

Mae lleoliad gofal plant Pontymoile i blant dan 5 oed wedi'i leoli ym Mhont-y-pŵl, Torfaen. Maent yn cynnig gwasanaeth gofal cofleidiol (*wrap around*) i ac o amryw ysgol. Maent yn ddarparwr Dechrau'n Deg, meithrinfa nas cynhelir a darparwr Cynnig Gofal Plant.

Perfformiad Busnes

Gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'n cyllid yn dod o gynlluniau'r Llywodraeth (Dechrau'n Deg/meithrinfa nas cynhelir / Cynnig Gofal Plant) rydym newydd dorri'n hafaél yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf 2022-23. Rwy'n rhyfeddu at y gwahaniaethau ledled Cymru rhwng Awdurdodau Lleol a'u hymrwymadau ariannol i'r sector gofal plant. Sut y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ddisgwyl gweithredu'n llwyddiannus eu hymrwymiad i ddarparu lleoedd a ariennir ar gyfer pob plentyn 2 oed ag anghysondebau o'r fath?

Gyda'r cynnydd enfawr yn yr Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol o Ebrill 24, y cynnydd anochel mewn Yswiriant Gwladol Cyflogwyr (YG) a chyfraniadau pensiwn, ynghyd â chostau rhent uwch oherwydd costau cyfleustodau a chostau bwyd, mae'r rhagolygon ar gyfer ein lleoliadau yn ymddangos yn anghynaladwy. Mae cyfran fach o'n harian yn dod gan rieni. Ni fydd unrhyw gynnydd rydym yn trosgwlyddo i'w ffioedd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i gynaliadwyedd ac mae gwasg y DU eisoes yn beirniadu gofal plant fel y drutaf.

O ran cyfradd ariannu'r Cynnig Gofal Plant, mae angen cynnydd sylweddol yng nghyllid y Llywodraeth, i dalu am ein costau a darparu clustog ar gyfer amgylchiadau annisgwyl, yn hytrach nag anelu at gwneud elw.

Grantiau

Rydym yn ddiolchgar am y grantiau Gofal Plant yr ydym wedi gallu eu cyrchu drwy Awdurdodau Lleol ar ôl Covid. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd y meini prawf a nodwyd yn caniatáu inni ganolbwyntio ar yr hyn yr oedd ei angen arnom fwyaf, ac fel arfer, ni ofynnodd neb i ddarparwyr gofal plant am eu barn ar beth fyddai eu blaenoriaethau.

Mae gennym ddodrefn hyfryd ond nid yw hynny'n talu cyflogau'r staff!

Plant ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY)

Mae'r cynnydd yn nifer y plant sydd ag ADY tybiedig neu a gadarnhawyd yn enfawr. Mae gennym yr awydd a'r profiad i fod eisiau cynnig lleoedd i blant ag anghenion ychwanegol ac rydym yn falch o'n hymrwymiad i hyn ond mae mwy o faich ariannol ychwanegol i leoliadau. Mae hyn yn cynnwys staff cymwys ychwanegol sydd eu hangen mewn cymhareb, cymorth gweinyddol i fynychu cyfarfodydd, cynhyrchu arferion sy'n canolbwyntio ar yr unigolyn mewn addysg ynghyd â dogfennaeth ychwanegol er mwyn sicrhau trawsnewidiadau effeithiol.

Rydym yn benderfynol o gynnal safonau uchel, i ddarparu amgylcheddau effeithiol o ansawdd uchel, i gyflogi a hyfforddi sy'n galluogi oedolion, gan gefnogi eu datblygiad proffesiynol i ddarparu profiadau deniadol i'n holl blant.

Mae costau rhedeg fel nwy, trydan, Offer Diogelu Personol (PPE) a chyflenwadau crefft wedi codi 50%. Mae'r Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol / Cyflog Byw Cenedlaethol wedi codi tua 10% o 2022/23 i 2023/24 ac yna ar gyfer 24/25 mae'r Cyflog Byw wedi codi i £11.44 o fis Ebrill 2024. O ganlyniad, mae disgwyl cynnydd cyflog i gynnal gwahaniaethau, sy'n cyfateb i o leiaf £600 yr wythnos neu £30,000 y flwyddyn, gan ystyried cyfraniadau pensiwn a chyfraniadau pensiwn cyflogwr uwch.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod awdurdodau lleol yn wynebu heriau ariannol. Fodd bynnag, heb arweiniad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyllid, sut y gellir gwireddu'r ymrwymiad hwn pan fydd pob awdurdod yn penderfynu yn annibynnol faint o bwysau i'w roi wrth gynllunio eu hagenda cyllid? Rydym yn deall bod economi gymysg iawn gyda strwythurau lleoliadau gofal plant ond mae hynny'n amherthnasol oherwydd heb godiadau cyllid, byddant i gyd yn anghynnaladwy.

Os yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo'n wirioneddol i ddarparu lleoedd wedi'u hariannu ar gyfer plant 2 oed ac nid dim ond ei ddefnyddio fel tacteg etholiadol, rhaid cynyddu cyfraddau cyllido ar unwaith, nid mewn blwyddyn pan fydd llawer o leoliadau wedi cau oherwydd cyfyngiadau cyllidebol.

Rwy'n cael nosweithiau di-gwsg yn poeni sut y gallwn gynnal hyn, ac rwy'n credu heb gynydd yn y cyfraddau cyllido trwy'r holl ffrydiau addysg a gofal a ddarparwn, na fyddwn yn gallu gwneud hynny.

Isobel Yacomen, Pontymoile o dan 5 oed

Astudiaeth achos: Effaith costau cynyddol arnynt heb gynydd mewn cyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru. V0.1 – GORFFENNAF 2024.