<u>Working parents in areas of Gwynedd</u> <u>and Anglesey urged to take up free</u> childcare offer

The Minister visited the Ty Cegin Community Centre in Maesgeirchen, Bangor earlier today, where he met staff working on the Welsh Government's childcare offer, as well as Children First, Flying Start and Families First — all of which support and meet the needs of children and their families in the local area.

The Welsh Government's childcare offer provides working parents of 3 and 4 years old children with 30 hours of free early education and childcare for 48 weeks of the year.

In September 2017, the Welsh Government began piloting the offer in areas across Wales, including in areas of Anglesey and Gwynedd, ready for full roll-out across Wales by September 2020.

Huw Irranca-Davies said:

"Providing free childcare is one of the Welsh Government's top commitments to the people of Wales.

"We are now in the process of rolling out our ground-breaking and ambitious childcare offer to areas across Wales — and I'm really pleased areas across Gwynedd and Anglesey are among the first to benefit.

"Working parents across Wales are already telling us it's making a real difference to their lives, reducing the strain on family income and helping ensure childcare is not a barrier to them taking up employment or increasing their hours.

"So I want to encourage more parents across Gwynedd and Anglesey to take up the offer. I also want to thank childcare providers for their enthusiasm and commitment to helping us deliver our ambitious offer."