



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 5th June 2008

Title: Play Strategy Monitoring Report

Report of: Director of Community Services

Report reference: CS 36/08

Summary:

This report highlights some of the progress made on implementing the actions from the Play Strategy, since it's approval in August 2007.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

Members are requested to consider the progress to date and discuss the challenges of continuing to improve the Council's services to children and young people as outlined in the Play Policy and Strategy.

Are there any specific areas of the Council's work with children and young people that Members would like to know more about?

Is this method of reporting on progress the most informative and effective way of keeping members abreast of the service?

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to note progress on the actions and to confirm their satisfaction that the service to CYP is being delivered in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Play Strategy.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

MONITORING PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE ONE: To develop unsupervised provision for all children and young people to meet and play, in a range of inspiring, stimulating and challenging environments, both natural and created.

Action Plan	October 2007 – June 2008
By working with partners, developers and planners to ensure the recognition of play as an acceptable benefit for using Section 106 funding from developers.	Consulting with children at local schools about how they would like to see their local parks and play areas developed. Approx 1000 returns. Latest play area at Cummersdale – involved consulting with children and parents/carers who chose the equipment etc. Secured £45,000 for development of Play area at new housing development in Burgh Road
To develop a City Play Trail for CYP linking the City Centre to Bitts Park. In consultation with communities, develop further Play Trails in local areas.	Working in partnership with ECCP to seek Playful Ideas funding for creating a Play Trail in Belah and Kingmoor. City Play Trail lottery funded portfolio project behind schedule due to changes to proposed route for flood defence proposals in Bitts Park. Ongoing discussions with Environment Agency and Carlisle Renaissance team who have undertaken to continue development of Play Trail through the City Centre
To ensure that safe routes are created and managed by inclusion in traffic and transport strategy.	Working in partnership with CHA on Playful Ideas funding application to embrace Home Zone type projects
In consultation with CYP, to use early Contractor Involvement (ECI) in developing longer term improvements in the equipped play areas across the Carlisle District.	No action to date

MONITORING PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE TWO: To develop supervised provision for all children and young people to meet and play, in a range of inspiring, stimulating and challenging environments, both natural and created.

Action Plan	October 2007 – June 2008
To develop natural outdoor play experiences for CYP and parents/carers by developing a face2face outreach team in both urban and rural areas.	Recruitment of 2 new lottery funded face2face outreach workers is behind schedule due to having to re-advertise posts. Estimated to have new staff in post by July 2008. Parkschemes pilot held Feb half term 2008. Parkschemes replaced Activity Clubs in Upperby, Brampton, Morton, Harraby and Belah wards. Linked with the Sport and Recreation Team's Social Inclusion programmes at Hammonds Pond Upperby, St Jame's Park Denton Holme and Melbourne Park Botcherby Planned partnership delivery with the Sport and Recreation Team during summer 2008
To improve and develop all year round play opportunities in local communities.	Proposals to move away from delivering mainly rural services during the summer holidays and extending face2face service throughout rural and urban communities all year. Link into Sport and Recreation initiatives through various programmes
To encourage and create opportunities to promote inclusive play provision.	Installed new DDA compliant equipment at Hammonds Pond following consultation
To encourage the development of exciting, challenging play environments which offer the opportunity to take risks.	Theme for National Playday – Give us a Go. Event planned for August to raise profile relating to the importance of challenging play environments which offer the opportunity to take risks. Organise challenging sports activities at National Playday Proposals being developed for BMX rack in Melbourne Park

MONITORING PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE THREE: To seek the views of all children and young people, encouraging them to participate and become actively involved in decision making processes that affect them.

Action Plan	October 2007 – June 2008
To ensure that CYP are involved in the creation, development and improvement of inclusive play provision.	Working with groups of young people to enable and facilitate their involvement in the development of proposals to create a new Youth Space on the site of the Richard Rose Academy , including their participation in the UK Youth Parliament North West Region's Circles of Influence Conference.
To ensure the city centre public realm re-modelling by Carlisle Renaissance has the needs of CYP, their role and use of the City Centre and opportunities for play, as key outputs for their work.	Continuation of meetings with the Renaissance Team who are keen to support the concept of the City Centre Play Trail development.
To achieve the public realm remodelling through active participation and consultation with CYP across the city and district.	Presentation by young people at Carlisle Partnership Forum at Tullie House Involved in consulting with children at Belah and Kingmoor School in partnership with Green Spaces, Extended Services and ECCP.
To ensure that any decisions made by Carlisle City Council take into account the views and involvement of CYP.	No action has yet been taken, but discussions to determine the best method for ensuring this action is implemented effectively, have been arranged.

MONITORING PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE FOUR: To provide an infrastructure of support to affirm the benefits of play and build capacity amongst communities and other stakeholders.

Action Plan	October 2007 – June 2008
To continue to develop and support Carlisle Play Partnership	Regular meetings have been held and Terms of Reference agreed. The Partnership currently has 17 member organisations.
To maximise potential for accessing funding to create, improve and develop high quality, sustainable play provision in communities.	Providing advice to ECCP and CHA regarding applications for lottery funding. Accessed funding from Early Years Local Committee and CHA in respect of casual staff to increase holiday provision. Supporting Downagate Community centre to develop local Play Partnership, proposals and business plan to apply for funding to provide youth work support.
To encourage and educate key stakeholders so they understand the importance of play and that they then ensure appropriate allocation of resources.	Representation on Locality Planning Group. Play Partnership meetings. Playful Ideas workshops/meetings with community groups. Presentations to Extended Services cluster meetings. Facilitating Play Partnership working group to organise National Playday. Representation on the Sport & Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA)
To advise public, private, voluntary and community sector partners on the application of quality standards and risk.	Continued support and advice to Parish Council's on Playground Safety inspections
To develop a promotional plan to raise awareness of the strategy and importance of play for all.	Marketing for National Playday and other services via Focus, Rural Voice, Carlisle Leisure holiday brochures, Children's Information Service (Parents Newsletter), Carlisle City Council web page, National Playday web page, school newsletters and directly through schools. Specifically designed information leaflets.
To ensure play needs are identified at a local level and fed into key strategic plans and initiatives.	Provided play objective which has been included in the locality refresh of County Children and Young People's Plan, in terms of Enjoy and Achieve.

MONITORING PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE FIVE: To secure a skilled, diverse and motivated workforce that will help develop local play opportunities for children and young people

Action Plan	October 2007 – June 2008
To seek and enhance the training of existing staff employed to work with CYP.	Continual training and updating for all staff involved in providing CYP services eg Safeguarding Children Play England Conference – Explore, Discover, Play First Aid, food hygiene Inspiring Communities Hear by Right Circles of Influence Pilot Scheme with Young Devon on Participation in Action Film making Sports related activities
To seek external funding for employing further workers to work with CYP, in particular community playworkers.	Delivered workshops Autumn 2007 to promote Playful Ideas funding. Part of working group with ECCP and CHA to access lottery funding for projects that will involve employing playworkers. Secured funding from Early Years local committee and CHA towards employing additional casual staff for holiday programmes. Agreed continuation of contract with County Council to deliver specialist services to young people until March 2009, with rolling option for 3 years, including Outreach youth project in Belah.
To ensure a regular comprehensive practical and accredited play training programme is developed.	No action yet
To offer play training and information to workers and volunteers who work with CYP.	Playful Ideas workshops. Presentations to Extended Services cluster meetings Presentations to Carlisle Play Partnership and Play England One week training programme arranged for up to 24 casual workers and volunteers on delivering quality Holiday Playschemes Sports coaching schemes for volunteers

