



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 27th November 2008

Title: PLAY STRATEGY MONITORING REPORT

Report of: Director of Community Services

Report reference: CS96/08

Summary:

This report highlights progress made on the actions from the Play Strategy, since its implementation last year.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Are there any specific areas of the Council's work with children and young people that Members would like to know more about?
- 3) Is this method of reporting on progress the most informative and effective way of keeping members abreast of the service?

The presentation of the report will include a short DVD showing some of the activities, which have taken place over the past 6 months.

This report also includes information from the period October 2007 to June 2008, which would have been reported to the meeting on 5th June, which was cancelled.

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

Included with the papers sent to Members for that meeting, were copies of the Play Strategy and Policy and Members are requested to bring those documents to this meeting for reference and information.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended:

- a) to note progress on the actions and to confirm their satisfaction that the service to children and young people is delivered in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Play Strategy
- b) to urge the Executive Committee to nominate a Member to be Children's Champion as recommended in the Play Strategy.

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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	July 2008 – September 2008
Following the Disability Discrimination Act audit, provide facilities for children and young people (CYP) with disabilities in order for them to use and enjoy existing and new play facilities, play spaces and public realm areas.	Accessibility for all is now a standard item in tenders for new play areas.
To review the Play Area Strategy draft document, including an assessment of fixed play areas as a basis for sustainable management of the play areas, including geographic locations.	Desk study of play area portfolio completed. Obsolete and/or underused sites identified and a 'consultation list' produced for discussion with City Council, Play Partnership and local communities.
To define and adopt standards of Play Provision and opportunities based on the Carlisle and District Local Plan (draft) and PPG17 (open spaces, sport and recreation).	No action to date.
By working with partners, developers and planners to ensure the recognition of play as an acceptable benefit for using Section 106 funding from developers.	Meetings held with residents groups and a consultation letter sent out in relation to Moorville Drive (Belah) where s106 monies are available to relocate play area. Preliminary discussions held relating to Story's idea for an 'eco-village' development at Crindledyke.
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.	City Play Trail Big Lottery funded portfolio project behind schedule to due flood defence work. Planning next consultation with children and young people. Working closely with Carlisle Renaissance and Planning Department on the development of category C designs.
To ensure that safe routes are created	No action to date.

and managed by inclusion in traffic and transport strategy.	
In consultation with CYP to use early Contractor Involvement (ECI) in developing longer term improvements in the equipped play areas across the Carlisle District.	Internal assessments of the City Council's play area portfolio to provide discussion document on longer-term strategy. Approval given for capital project at Heysham Park (Belle Vue) and consultation on detailed design is imminent.

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	July 2008 – September 2008
To develop natural outdoor play experiences for CYP and parents/carers by developing a face2face outreach team in both urban and rural areas.	Two new Big Lottery funded face2face outreach workers started on 14 th July. Summer Play Programme delivered in 26 locations – comprising Playschemes, Parkschemes and Wildschemes.
To improve and develop all year round play opportunities in local communities.	Started process of reshaping service delivery of play & positive activities in both urban and rural areas – face2face Programme. Started sessional outreach sessions in Castle and Upperby wards. From October – February 09 will roll out programme to, Petteril Bank, St Aidans, Great Corby & Geltsdale, Hayton, Wetheral.
To encourage and create opportunities to promote inclusive play provision.	Summer Play Programme – 56 children/young people identified on registers as having special/additional needs.
To encourage the development of exciting, challenging play environments which offer the opportunity to take risks.	National Playday event – promoted and provided opportunities for children and young people to engage in challenging activities.

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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	July 2008 – September 2008
To ensure that CYP are involved in the creation, development and improvement of inclusive play provision.	City Council's Green Spaces team has conducted extensive consultation with CYP on attitudes and preferences for fixed play areas. Analysis still to complete. Working with two groups PLUG (People Like Us Group) and SPAM (Skate Park Action Meeting), involving children and young people who access Carlisle Skatepark and the city centre, to improve facilities and provision such as the Youth Zone. Held 4 th meeting of the Carlisle Joint School Council.
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.	Community Support Team represented on Carlisle Renaissance Steering Group.
To achieve the public realm remodelling through active participation and consultation with CYP across the city and district.	Ongoing.
To ensure that any decisions made by Carlisle City Council take into account the views and involvement of CYP.	Two young people involved in recruitment, selection and induction of new face2face Co-ordinators. Young people's involvement and contribution to the annual town-twinning meeting held in Flensburg.

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

Action Plan	July 2008 – September 2008
To continue to support Carlisle Play Partnership	2 x meetings held during this period. Partnership submitted consultation response to DCSF re the proposed National Play Strategy.
To maximise potential for accessing funding to create, improve and develop high quality, sustainable play provision in communities.	Partnership working with County and voluntary sector to access Play Pathfinder and Playbuilder funding. Partnership working with Connexions, Young Cumbria and the voluntary sector to help facilitate and support the development of a Carlisle Consortium bid for the CYSS tendering process. Funding advice to Denton Holme and Downagate Youth Clubs.
To encourage and educate key stakeholders so they understand the importance of play and that they then ensure appropriate allocation of resources.	Representation on Carlisle Children & Young People's Locality Planning Group. Play Partnership meetings. Representation on the Sport & Physical Activity Alliance. Representation of Carlisle Renaissance Steering Group. Representation on the CDRP Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group.
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.	National Playday marketing and subsequent media coverage. Summer play programme and face2face programme marketing.
To ensure play needs are identified at a local level and fed into key strategic plans and initiatives.	Representation on Children & Young People's Locality Planning Group. Representation on Carlisle Partnership.

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	July 2008 – September 2008
To seek and enhance the training of existing staff employed to work with CYP.	Training and updating for staff involved in providing CYP services e.g. 2 x days internal staff induction/training, CABE Spaceshaper, First Aid, Writing a Consortium Bid, Village Hall workshop.
To seek external funding for employing further workers to work with CYP, in particular community playworkers.	Partnership working with County and voluntary sector to access Play Pathfinder and Playbuilder funding.
To ensure a regular comprehensive practical and accredited play training programme is developed.	No action to date.
To offer play training and information to workers and volunteers who work with CYP.	Summer Play Programme training week for staff and volunteers.