

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Programme 2005

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report outlines to the Committee the opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Playscheme Programme in 2005. The Committee is asked to note this report.

1.2 This year 30 Playschemes and projects were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Borough Council. These included full-time summer schemes, schemes for children with disabilities, Outreach Play programme, Mobile Play Project and the Wirral Play Day held at Royden Park.

2.0 Staffing and Recruitment

2.1 During February and March playworker job adverts were placed in local papers, Wirral Play Council web site, sixth forms in schools and colleges and at local universities. Interviews were held just after Easter at Gautby Road Play and Community Centre. The interview process lasted for 3 hours and the candidates were asked to participate in practical games and planning activities, as well as a more formal interview. This style of interviewing was a great success as it allowed candidates to be seen for a longer period of time and enable them to demonstrate their play work skills more effectively.

2.2 Playworkers

This year, 78 temporary playworkers were appointed, with a good return rate of 53% of the playworkers who had previously worked on Wirral Play Council summer playschemes. Again, the predominant group employed were students in the 19-25 age category. This experience, coupled with the knowledge of the local playscheme organisers and community support, is the key to a successful playscheme. However, some areas have less community involvement and encouraging the participation of local volunteers as Play Organisers is becoming increasingly difficult.

- 2.3 Each scheme has a designated Lead Playworker, who supports the organisation and day-to-day running of the scheme. Wirral Play Council Committee continued with this arrangement as they believed it was beneficial to the quality of the scheme.
- 2.4 **Pre-summer Training**
The format for this year's pre-summer training was structured on a theoretical and practical basis to provide the fundamental training for the new playworkers and new ideas and skills for experienced staff.
- 2.5 "Take Five for Play" is a 15 hour introduction to Playwork recognised by OFSTED, all students must complete a portfolio demonstrating they have completed 10 hours of work in a play setting. However, this recognised course does not cover the specific policies and procedures of the Play Council. Therefore, the playworkers also attended our in-house training day on policies and procedures.

3.0 OFSTED Inspections

- 3.1 During July and August 2005 four summer playschemes were inspected by OFSTED Early Years under the new guidelines. The inspectors assess the scheme from the point of view of a child and how it meets the five outcomes from Every Child Matters. Greasby and Vale House playschemes achieved "Good" overall while Seacombe and Pensby achieved "Satisfactory".

4.0 Mobile Play Team

- 4.1 The mobile play team continues to be a successful and popular project, providing the facility for delivering and operating play equipment, with the aim of enhancing the playscheme programmes. Their activities included inflatable bouncy castles, badge makers, candle making, parachutes, and the provision of music and sports equipment.
- 4.2 This year two of the "old" team returned and worked well alongside two new playworkers. The team worked excellently, each using their individual skills and enthusiasm to create a successful project. They were well received by each playscheme that they visited and were able to provide different play opportunities and diversity from the general activities. They were particularly welcome on the schemes on their busier days when they were able to help ease the staffing levels. However, the aim of the mobile team is to provide activities that are complementary to the other planned activities taking place.

5.0 Summer Outreach Sessions (S.O.S.)

- 5.1 For the second year, the Summer Outreach Project delivered play provision in five local areas responding to community requests and unavailability or lack of facilities in the area. The Project utilised local parks and play areas designated for children's play.
- 5.2 Week 1 – Queens Park, Hoylake
Week 2 – Central Park, Liscard
Week 3 – Juliet Gardens, Town Lane, Bebington
Week 4 – Archers' Park, Bromborough
Week 5 – Upton Park, Moreton
- 5.3 This project was coordinated with the outreach play project, PlaySpaces who also delivered play provision in the following areas: Allandale, Seacombe; Central Park, Wallasey; Illchester Square, Birkenhead; Beechwood Estate; Tollemache Road, Claughton; Victoria Park, Tranmere; Mersey Park, Rock Ferry; Howson Road, Rock Ferry; Leasowe Millennium Centre; Yew Tree Road, Moreton; Upton Park, Bentick Street, Central Birkenhead and Birkenhead Park.

6.0 National Play Day 2005 "Fit for Play"

- 6.1 This was held at Royden Country Park on Wednesday 10th August. As part of the National Play Day celebrations "Fit For Play" focused on the fundamental importance of free play in providing physical activity for all ages of children, as well as promoting their healthy, social and emotional development. The theme also addressed the problems that children and young people face in finding somewhere suitable to play.
- 6.2 The Mayor opened the event and judged the playscheme banner competition. Twenty-two playschemes attended bringing over 450 children together. Playschemes were booked onto some workshops including rounders, dance and face painting. There were many other activities groups could take part in; circus skills, drum circle, windsocks, tug-of-war and den building with bales of straw!
- 6.3 The talent show was as ever an extremely popular activity, enabling lots of children to have the opportunity to show their talents. St John Ambulance were also present on the day.

6.4 The Play Day was a great success thanks to the help of the organising committee, and in particular, the Royden Park Ranger service for being so efficient and supportive.

7.0 Wirral Play Council Special Needs Playscheme

7.1 The summer holiday's playscheme for children aged 5-14 operated from Monday 25th July – Friday 19th August, 20 days in all. An average of 36 children per day attended, this number included new children who had been referred.

7.2 Hours of operation were 10.00am – 3.00pm each day. All children stay for lunch, which consists of a packed lunch. At least 6 children per day required 1-1 supervision for either behaviour problems or total care.

8.0 Summary

8.1 Overall the Summer Playschemes were a great success and the number of children registered increased by 531, an 18% improvement. The Local Authority grant of £58,000, and support for Lead Playworkers from Surestart Support Team, enabled the employment of 78 playworkers and provided small equipment grants for a myriad of play settings.

8.2 Additional funding from the Merseyside Playing Fields Association was much appreciated and enabled additional support to schemes and extra playworkers where necessary. Many play organisers and their respective committees also fundraise throughout the year to supplement the grant to provide extra playworkers, play equipment and to subsidise off-site activities.

8.3 The most successful schemes are those that foster local parental and voluntary involvement. Their support is paramount and some playschemes could not operate without it. Many thanks to the local communities, play organisers, staff, volunteers and parents for their hard work, commitment and support in collectively providing summer play opportunities for the children of Wirral.

9.0 Financial and Staffing Implications

9.1 This year 30 Playschemes and projects were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Borough Council. These included full-time summer schemes, schemes for children with disabilities, Outreach Play programme, Mobile Play Project and the Wirral Play Day held at Royden Park.

10.0 **Equal Opportunities Implications**

10.1 The Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Programme promotes Equal Opportunities.

11.0 **Human Rights Implications**

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12.0 **Community Safety Implications**

12.1 The Wirral Play Council provides children with the opportunity to take part in positive activities which is an important strand of community safety.

13.0 **Planning Implications**

13.1 There are none arising from this report.

14.0 **Local Member Support Implications**

14.1 There are none arising from this report.

15.0 **Background papers**

15.1 There are none arising from this report.

16.0 **Recommendations**

16.1 The Committee notes this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Education & Cultural Services

APPENDIX 1

<u>Summer Playscheme</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>No Of Children</u>	<u>Under 8's</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily</u>
		<u>Registered</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Average</u>
Courtney Park	5	42	10	640	32
Eastham	4	125	26	971	49
Greasby	3	94	36	811	54
Heswall	4	115	75	867	43
Irby	4	82	28	754	38
Moreton	4	100	20	801	40
New Ferry	4	172	49	1334	67
Noctorum	4	61	16	428	18
Overton	3	65	26	711	47
Pensby	4	128	20	1026	51
Seacombe	4	45	15	886	44
Shaftesbury Youth Club	4	25	18	368	20
Tam O Shanter	4	92	17	654	30
Tranmere	3	212	48	1522	101
Vale Park	4	120	38	1206	60
West Kirby	4	148	83	1274	64
Women & Children's Aid	3	12	10	180	N/A
<u>Specific Needs Schemes</u>					
Belvidere Centre	4	43	N/A	276	31
Foxfield	4	50	N/A	560	28
Wirral Play Council	4	130	35	725	36
<u>Outreach Play Projects</u>					
PlaySpaces	5	N/A	N/A	332	N/A
Prenton	4	170	44	6903	276
Bromborough	1	90	30	N/A	N/A
Hoylake	1	85	34	N/A	N/A
Liscard	1	92	44	N/A	N/A
Moreton	1	22	3	N/A	N/A
Town Lane	1	61	29	N/A	N/A
<u>Playwork+</u>					
Charing Cross	6	189	N/A	1710	N/A
Gautby Road	6	183	N/A	2421	N/A
Livingstone Street	6	197	N/A	1469	N/A
<u>Total</u>		2950	754	28829	1129

APPENDIX 2

Full-time Open Access Registrations August – December 2005

Name of Centre	Male U 8's	Male 8 +	Female U 8's	Female 8 +	Total
Charing Cross Play and Youth Centre	52	80	29	65	226
Livingstone Street Play Centre	60	65	37	63	225
Gautby Road Play Centre	49	60	52	51	212
Leasowe Adventure Playground	16	92	24	50	182
Woodchurch	24	94	24	68	210
Beechwood	32	80	28	38	178
Beaconsfield	0	30	0	33	63

Full-time Open Access Attendance August – December 2005

Name of Centre	Male U 8's	Male 8 +	Female U 8's	Female 8 +	Total
Charing Cross Play and Youth Centre	2158	3363	1221	1822	8654
Livingstone Street Play Centre	2142	2596	2451	4002	11575
Gautby Road Play Centre	3709	7198	4130	6114	21151
Leasowe Adventure Playground	873	5303	578	2998	9752
Woodchurch	707	3416	530	1878	6531
Beechwood	1139	4380	2047	2021	9787
Beaconsfield	0	896	0	856	1752