



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 29 May 2012
Time:	5.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)**
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2012
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE'S REPORT (Pages 5 - 16)**
5. **RAILWAY SAFETY (PRESENTATION)**
6. **'BIKE IT' (PRESENTATION)**
7. **PLAY BUILDER REPORT (Pages 17 - 58)**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee 10 January 2011

Present

Chair Cllr Tom Harney
Councillors Cllr Cherry Povall
Cllr Wendy Clements
Council Officers Lindsay Davidson, Head of UYSS
Caroline Laing, Deputy Head of UYSS
Steve Chan, Deputy Head of UYSS
Michelle Langan – Health Services in Schools Co-ordinator
Pat Rice – Head of Response, UYSS
Julia Hassall – Acting Deputy Director, CYPD

Holly Smith – Young Person

In Attendance

Steve Pimblett, Head of IYSS
Maureen McDaid, Principal Manager Participation and
Commissioning
Cllr Walter Smith
Cllr Sheila Clarke
Cllr Chris Meaden
Cllr Pat Williams

Apologies

Index to Minutes

- Minute 18 - Welcome and Apologies
- Minute 19 - Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Minute 20 - Head of Service's Report
- Minute 21 - Health Services in Schools (presentation)
- Minute 22 - 'Alcohol. Alright?' (presentation)
- Minute 23 - Healthy Eating – 'Can Cook, Will Cook' (demonstration and tasters). Presented by young people from South Wirral and Children from Charing Cross Play Scheme.
- Minute 24 - Any Other Business
- Minute 25 - Date of Next Meeting

Minute 18 Welcome and Apologies

Tom Harney asked everybody to introduce themselves and then handed over to Holly Smith who would Chair the meeting.

Minute 19 Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 October 2011

Agreed and no matters arising.

Minute 20 Head of Service's Report

Lindsay Davidson presented the Head of Service Report and highlighted a number of projects.

Resolved

- i) The Head of Service be thanked for her report.

Minute 21 Health Services in Schools

A presentation by Pat Rice and Michelle Langan.

Resolved

- i) Pat and Michelle were thanked for the presentation.

Minute 22 'Alcohol. Alright?'

Pat Rice made a presentation outlining the work of the 'Alcohol. Alright?' initiative.

Resolved:

- i) Pat Rice was thanked for her presentation and Cllr Povall thanked all the staff for their positive and informative presentations. Julia Hassall commented that the alcohol resources were a productive tool to engage with young people.

Minute 23 Healthy Eating 'Can Cook, Will Cook' – demonstration

All Committee Members adjourned to the canteen to observe cookery demonstrations by young people from South Wirral and children from Charing Cross Play Scheme.

Resolved:

- i) The children, young people and workers were thanked for their healthy cooking/eating presentations.

Minute 24 Any Other Business

Cll Tom Harney thanked Holly for chairing the meeting and closed the meeting.

Minute 25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29 May 2012 at 17.30pm.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 2012

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF UNIVERSAL YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 General Service Update/Staff Movements

- 1.1. The Integrated Youth Support Service, of which the Universal Youth Support Service is part, has secured short-term funding to deliver an intensive youth engagement project in the Stronger Communities Initiative area (Birkenhead). This has seen the deployment of additional resources in the form of youth workers, play workers and sports workers to the area, focused primarily on Bentinck Street and its locality. This new team will be undertaking intensive work in the area until the end of September 2012 focusing on reducing anti-social behaviour, increasing community cohesion and improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.2. The Service is working in partnership to deliver an international youth exchange with the Hong Kong Commission. The Mersey International Youth Exchange Programme is a new partnership with Pine Court and Cosmopolitan Housing Associations and has seen a group of nine young people from Wirral selected to be ambassadors for Wirral, together with a group of young people from Liverpool. They will undertake a two-week cultural visit to Hong Kong in September and play host to a group of sixteen young people from Hong Kong in July. The theme of the Programme is 'community' which will include inter-generational work. The young people are currently engaging in a range of fundraising activities to ensure that the visiting students have a great experience of all that Wirral and Liverpool have to offer.
- 1.3. Funded through the Early Intervention Grant and supported by registered charity Involve North-West, a series of 'Battle of the Bands' has taken place across Wirral's four Youth Hubs. These events were used as a selection process to identify eight of the best young bands the borough has to offer to perform at Youthfest 2012 in Birkenhead Park on Saturday 30 June. The event, which is hoping to attract up to 1,000 young people, is being sponsored by Fallen Industries, a recording and rehearsal studio in Upton, who is offering a prize to the winning band on the day including rehearsal time and recording time with Michael Johnson (engineer for New Order, Joy Division, Stone Roses, Pink Floyd and Kraftwerk). The winner will also have the opportunity to play at Astral Coast, a one-day festival at Floral Pavilion to be run by Bido Lito! Magazine in July 2012. The judging panel includes reporters from both the Wirral Globe and Wirral News.
- 1.4. Ian McCabe, Senior Youth Worker (Participation and Workforce Development) will commence a two year employment break in June. This post will be covered by Michelle Langan.
- 1.5. Moira Bridge has been appointed as Principal Youth Worker, Fender Youth Club.

Area Team reports

2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts

Birkenhead District

- 2.1. Young people from Callister Youth Club have been involved in celebrations for Chinese New Year. A number of young people have also achieved certificates in basic First Aid. Aiming High has funded the development of a sensory/craft room for the Club.
- 2.2. Cavendish Youth Club remains closed for essential health and safety repairs. Staff have continued to make contact with young people from the Club and the neighbourhood by taking part in outreach activity in the vicinity. The staff are also supporting the new youth project in the Stronger Communities Initiative area referred to above.
- 2.3. Charing Cross Youth Club has eight young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme which operates on Thursday evenings. Young people have completed the 'skills' section and have started the 'physical' section, learning badminton and volleyball. Staff have focused upon delivering brief interventions (*Alcohol. Alright?*) to young people following the training of workers through this Early Intervention Grant funded initiative led by Response.
- 2.4. Young people from Grange Baptist Youth Club and Church have participated in Wirral Youth Theatre's thematic workshops covering self-harm, peer pressure, assertiveness and drugs and alcohol awareness. Young people have been conducting interviews to inform the newsletter that they are producing, which will include comments and views from young people and staff in the Club. A number of young people also visited Alton Towers financed through the Youth Opportunity Fund.
- 2.5. Shaftesbury Youth Club (home to Birkenhead Youth Hub) hosted heats of Wirral's Got Talent, D.J. sessions and Battle of the Bands (see above) which were funded by the Early Intervention Grant in partnership with Involve North-West. Young people participated in anti-smoking, sexual health and anti-bullying awareness sessions. The Club planned, organised and delivered a team building residential weekend in North Wales with young people.
- 2.6. Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team delivered diversionary activities for young people which included visiting Chill Factor, Alton Towers and Laser Quest, participating in go-karting and bowling.
- 2.7. Membership to Viking Youth Club has increased due to the promotion of activities in the area. Commemorating the Queen's Jubilee (funded through the Heritage Lottery Project) a group of young people are working in partnership with the Youth Federation and Port Sunlight Museum on an inter-generational initiative exploring what life was like for young people 60 years ago.

South Wirral

- 2.8. Following a successful bid to the Youth Opportunity Fund, young people from South Wirral Youth Hub have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, with many leading to accredited outcomes, including a climbing course at Awesome Walls (gaining NICAS Level 1 and 2) and narrow boat training with Birkenhead YMCA (leading to RYA Waterways certification). Young people also attended First Aid and Food Safety courses gaining a 3-year valid certificate. Young people, as part of an art project, had an overnight stay in London where they watched a performance in the West End. When the project is finished young people will have gained an ASDAN award in Arts.
- 2.9. South Wirral Youth Outreach Team supported young people, funded through the Early Intervention Grant, to complete Levels 1, 2, and 3 in Snowboarding at Chill Factor in Manchester. Young people have also gained the NICAS Level 2 Award at Awesome Walls.
- 2.10. Bebington Youth Club has been working with a group of young women designing a Girls' Room, which will be used as a drop-in facility to enable discussion groups for young women within the Club. Members have been raising money for Children in Need, including raffles, prize bingo and young people dressing up in their pyjamas to attend the Club. Young people have participated in a selection of training courses including First Aid and Fire Safety.

3.0. Wallasey and West Wirral Districts

West Wirral District

- 3.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has been working with community groups to develop a community allotment. The allotment committee is building three raised beds with disabled access and once complete the allotment will then commence in operation. Over 20 young people have been working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award in bronze, silver and gold respectively and started their expeditions in April 2012. Numbers of young people attending the Hub have been high with over 100 young people attending most Friday nights. Events held over the last few months include a DJ competition, Wirral's Youth Talent, Party Night and Battle of the Bands (see above) all funded by the Early Intervention Grant in partnership with Involve North-West. The partnership with West Kirby Churches Youth & Play Team is ongoing with a youth drop-in running two afternoons per week for ages 10-18. This is well attended with up to 30 attendees per session.
- 3.2. Fender Youth Club is now open following internal recruitment to the Principal Youth Worker post. It is currently open on a Monday night and is due to open on two further nights per week. Young people were successful in a Youth Opportunity Fund bid, which went towards decoration and supplying resources for the Club.
- 3.3. In the next few weeks Greasby Youth Club will be moving from Greasby Community Centre into the Pavilion in Coronation Park. The project will provide a safe space for young people to meet and participate in workshops and discussion groups. There will also be the opportunity to play sports on the multi games area in the park.

- 3.4. Since the last report, West Wirral Youth Outreach Team has offered a range of diversionary activities to over 300 young people, working closely with the police, voluntary sector, community groups, schools and the Council's Sports Development Unit. The Early Intervention Grant funds Youth Sports Nights at both Pensby High School (Friday nights) and West Kirby Concourse (Saturday nights) delivered through a partnership between the Outreach Team and the Sports Development Unit. Over 150 young people have been involved in various diversionary initiatives to challenge the consequences of anti-social behaviour, including climbing and snowboarding enabling young people to achieve various accreditations. 'You Decide' and Youth Opportunity Fund have enabled the development of initiatives encouraging young people to have a voice in their community and participate in self-planned activities, including decision making and having a voice at the West Wirral Youth Forum.

Wallasey District

- 3.5. Wallasey Youth Hub provided a range of activities including advanced band practice, guitar lessons, break dancing and arts work. Young people aged 16 and over took part in the 'Big Screen' for Chlamydia testing. The Youth Hub was also a venue for the Battle of the Bands competition (see above).
- 3.6. Through 'You Decide' funding, Leasowe Youth House has been able to purchase resources which have generated a new interest in the centre by young people and numbers participating has increased in recent weeks.
- 3.7. Young people from Belvidere Youth Club have been involved in various activities relating to emotional health. A new Club Charter has been written by young people, who are also developing a welcoming booklet for new members. Workshops have taken place around relationships, safety and abusive situations.
- 3.8. Moreton Youth Club celebrated Chinese New Year with young people participating in drum workshops, dragon paintings, Chinese symbols, lantern and decoration making. Young people also visited Liverpool to join in the Chinese New Year celebrations. The Club delivered a Life Skills Project aimed at enhancing young people's social skills and developing listening, communication and negotiating skills. The Club has also delivered workshops on drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness, healthy eating, sexual health & relationships and cooking & food preparation.
- 3.9. Wallasey Youth Outreach Team was awarded 'You Decide' funding which enabled young people to be involved in a range of activities such as water sports and cultural events, including Chinese New Year celebrations and an overnight stay in London and associated visit to the Houses of Parliament and meeting with the Right Hon Frank Field MP. This extended to First Aid and Food Safety training. These activities enabled young people to have new experiences, broaden their views and develop their life skills. Young people also raised money and awareness for World Aids Day through an event held at the Hub, supported by Terrence Higgins Trust and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. These activities were alongside part of the Team's core role to respond to hotspot areas of anti-social behaviour, working alongside the Sports Development Unit at weekends offering diversionary activities to targeted young people.

Borough-wide Youth Outreach Team

3.10. The Borough-wide Youth Outreach Team has been targeting young people engaged in anti-social behaviour in and around Mersey and Birkenhead Parks. These priority areas were identified by the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Governance Group led by Merseyside Police. On Friday and Saturday nights, sports sessions have been delivered in the multi-use games in these locations. Over 50 young people per evening have been involved, including vulnerable young people at risk of harm. Staff have provided diversionary activities and delivered harm reduction advice and guidance around alcohol and drug misuse, sexual health & relationships and citizenship.

4.0. Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)

4.1. Continues to deliver a wide range of participative performing arts in youth hubs, youth clubs, schools and with community groups. A core programme of activities and projects are provided from Monday to Saturday with some rehearsals taking place on Sundays. Much of this work has been funded by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) and external commissions. The active membership is now over 350 young people who are involved in longer term projects as well as accredited courses.

4.2. A major part of the work is supporting young people to develop as positive role models within projects and now there are over twenty young people who are trained to work as Peer Educators alongside staff. One project which enables young people to develop their facilitation and performance skills is the *Last Minute Theatre Company* which is made up of Peer Educators aged 16 -19 who create issue based theatre and workshop packages for youth and school groups. The company is currently working on a production called '*You Would If You Loved Me*' which explores teenage relationship abuse. The piece has been funded by the EIG to develop work around Risk Taking Behaviour (RTB). The work is in partnership with agencies such as Barnardos, the Zero Centre, NHS Wirral and the Wirral Safeguarding Board who have supported in the research and consultation process. The piece is being performed at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in May. Schools and youth groups who will be attending include the Observatory and Hospital Schools, Wirral Metropolitan College, Bebington, Pensby, Plessington, Woodchurch, Ridgeway and Oldershaw Schools, Charing Cross Youth Club, Youth Inclusion Project, Overchurch Youth Project and Belvidere Youth Club. Response and Barnardos will also have a presence at the event to support young people who may be affected by the issues raised in the play. Follow up workshops are being offered to schools and youth groups.

The company also regularly perform another piece at NHS staff training conferences across the North West which aims to make health services more accessible to young people. As a result of the success of this work, NHS Wirral has now commissioned the piece to be made into a DVD training tool as part of the 'You're Welcome Strategy'.

Another peer led project is 'The Friday Fun Night' funded by 'Aiming High for Disabled People' which is open to young people between the ages of 8 -14 and their siblings and offers dance and drama activities.

4.3. The EIG has enabled WYT to develop a new visual arts project involving twelve young people with a range of learning and physical disabilities. Young people attending over

the twelve weeks have worked with a professional photographer to develop their skills towards mounting their own public art exhibition. They are also completing their Bronze Arts Award. The work they have produced is exceptional and the exhibition will be launched at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in June before touring to other venues including the Floral Pavilion. The longer term plan is to develop a permanent visual arts studio for young artists to work with artists in residence and to work towards regular exhibitions at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.

- 4.4. In March, 15 young people completed their OCN course and gained a Level 1 Award in Peer Education including two units in 'Understanding Prejudice and Discrimination' and 'Developing Interpersonal Skills'. WYT is currently working in partnership with DADA (Disability and Deaf Arts) to develop a bespoke training course for up to twenty young people with or without disabilities who are interested in developing their facilitation and project management skills. This will involve 10 young people from the DADA young people's management group and 10 young people from Wirral, beginning with a recruitment event in July at the Bluecoat in Liverpool.
- 4.5. Two residential events, both funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund, took place in March involving 20 young people. Members of the Last Minute Theatre Company went to Trafford Hall to finish the script for the 'You Would If You Loved Me' and members of the Inclusion Dance (ID) company went to a camping barn in Lancashire for five days to develop interpersonal and team work skills and project plans.
- 4.6. The dance team have been involved in delivering a range of projects including work with Grange Baptist Youth Club focussing on self harm and another involving young male peer educators working in Ridgeway School using dance as a tool to explore alcohol misuse.

Other dance projects include a Saturday provision for young people who are looked after enabling older members to mentor younger children in care. Additional provision is also offered for young people with disabilities, young men and young people who are at risk. All these projects feed into an 'integrated dance session' which runs on a Wednesday evening and is attended by over 45 young people.

WYT is also facilitating several Olympic related dance projects including the BIG DANCE 2012 involving fifty young people from Wirral being supported to take part in regional and national dance event. WYT is running the dance stage for schools and community groups in Birkenhead Park as part of the Olympic Torch event on June 1st and also facilitating the dance element of the schools Olympic Event at the Oval at the end of June.

- 4.7. WYT has facilitated two workshop days as part of the Active Families initiative and has also been commissioned to facilitate 'Change 4 Life' packages in 15 schools across Wirral. The Friday morning drama and dance sessions continue with Meadowside and Foxfield Schools and some of the older members of the group are working towards their Bronze Arts Award, which they will complete June 2012. The drama team have also delivered drama taster sessions in Ridgeway School, Woodchurch School, Ellery Park School and Bebington High school.
- 4.8. The drama group meets every Monday to explore different theatre styles through improvisation, mask work, issue based material and script work. The group are currently working on various script excerpts for a performance on the 25th May 2012.

WYT is part of the Merseyside Youth Theatre Development Forum and is working towards hosting a Merseyside Youth Theatre Festival at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in July. This will involve over 150 young people from across the region coming together to take part in workshops and perform pieces from their repertoire. WYT has also worked with NHS Wirral on their Health Champions Programme and, as part of this, provided performances at Moreton Family Centre for young people who are looked after.

- 4.9 The music session on Thursday nights continues to thrive and in March the bands and soloists performed at and hosted another 'Live n Loud' gig to a packed audience. The team are also providing all the technical support for the 'Youth Fest' and worked on the heats in the Youth Hubs in April. The 'Pacific Swing' vocal group continue to rehearse on Thursdays and have been invited to perform at Parr Street Studios in Liverpool in May.
- 4.10 Two young men from Wirral Youth Theatre received Youth Hero 2012 awards with Josh Rotherham receiving overall the title of winner. Five young people have also gained university places including two young men gaining places at prestigious dance academies.

5.0 Response

- 5.1 Between January and April 2012 there were 89 new referrals in to the Counselling Team. 323 counselling sessions were delivered during this period. At the time of writing this report, there are currently 56 young people on the waiting list and this increase in demand has seen the waiting time to see a counsellor increase to twelve weeks. The counselling drop-in on a Tuesday (1-5pm) has now been extended until 6pm and is becoming increasingly popular. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains a concern for the service. Issues young people present with include bullying, depression, stress, family breakdown, loss/bereavement and anger.
- 5.2. Response has been successful in maintaining further investment (through Wirral DAAT) for its work carried out at Arrowse Park Accident & Emergency Department, delivering brief alcohol interventions. An evaluation of the *Alcohol. Alright?* intervention will be provided to the next Committee. Further Early Intervention Grant funding to develop this successful intervention training has been secured.
- 5.3. The Housing Team continues to offer housing advice, guidance and support to Wirral young people. The extension of the drop-in service, detailed in the last report, is proving to be effective, particularly with those young people who are in need of a speedy intervention due to being at risk of homelessness. A daily duty worker engages with young people upon arrival at Response and delivers a brief intervention, offering a further appointment to those who require more detailed advice and guidance. A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment is undertaken with young people being threatened with homelessness or who are homeless and an appropriate support plan put in place.
- 5.4. This extension of service now ensures that young people are seen and assessed on the day they present. A 'virtual' Team Around the Child (TAC) process is commenced, helping to prevent and/or relieve homelessness. This approach has seen over a third

of young people presenting to the housing team successfully returned home with a holistic support package. Young people with multiple needs and limited housing options are still referred into the service's 'Stop Gap' project. There are currently 17 young people receiving this level of intensive tailored support; 12 of whom have a care history and/or social care involvement. Young people are not only supported with their basic needs but also in raising aspirations and self-esteem, which has seen a number of young people return to education and training. By way of example, one young man was recently accepted into mainstream supported lodgings and entered training, after two 'Stop Gap' assessment placements following family breakdown.

5.5 The multi agency preventing homelessness workshop programme, 'The Wake Up Call', has seen a number of Wirral schools participate and follow up with internal homeless prevention sessions with their Year 10 and/or Year 11 groups. To date, approx 1,400 young people have participated in prevention sessions.

6.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

6.1. The number of organisations across the borough delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to increase, with the number of establishments now authorised to deliver the Programme under Wirral's Operating Licence rising to 38. The number of young people currently registered with these units is 1,990; 737 of whom are participating within Universal Youth Support Service units.

6.2. In March of this year, 14 young people from a number of operating units visited St James' Palace and received their Gold Award certificates from HRH Prince Philip.

6.3. Scottish Power's recent financial support for the Programme in four Wirral schools (St John Plessington Catholic College, Mosslands School, Wallasey School and Woodchurch High School) is proving to be effective with 455 young people recruited as a direct result of this provision.

6.4. The first expeditions of the season are now underway and thanks must go to the large numbers of adult volunteers who assist with these activities.

7.0 **Play Service**

7.1. The BIG Lottery play projects are continuing to deliver as projected in the final year. The Lottery has agreed and approved the extension of the projects into Year 4 within existing budgets, which has now achieved 87% of the budget expenditure. The projects have been extended as follows:

- Play for All project to 31 Aug 2012.
- Community Play Rangers to 20 July 2012.
- PlayPoint – Play Practitioners to 20 July 2012.
- Management and evaluation of programme to 30 September 2012

The project has been developed in order to meet a number of the BIG Lottery portfolio outcomes, namely:

Projects Outcome1: Number of children and young people participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need			
	Year 3 Targets	Year 3 achieved	%
Play Rangers	1167	1048	90
Playpoint	300	460	153
Play for All	100	69	69
Total	1567	1577	

Overall, the projects have already met 100% of the projected target for Year 3.

Projects Outcome 2: Enable 20% more children & YP to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment by the end of three years.

Over three years, 940 children have been consulted and surveyed. The campaign was delivered in 13 schools and delivered to 2085 pupils. The main findings and areas of concern were children's fear of being alone, groups or gangs of teenagers, traffic and bullying issues. These findings have led to the formulation and delivery of the Play Safe Action plan which offered solutions to address the issues.

	Target	Survey	Play Out, Feel Safe Campaign delivered
Year 1	313	244	
Year 2	313	152	1536
Year 3	313	85	549
Total	940	481	2085

The final BIG Lottery report will be available in September 2012.

- 7.2. The Play Practitioners project have a group of children involved with music and drama activities. They have produced and performed short plays to their peers. Children who are interested in singing have requested to make a video or CD. This is a child-led activity; the play workers support and encourage their interests in the performing arts. This activity has led to an increase in numbers attending sessions at the Woodchurch Community Centre and Shaftesbury Youth Hub.
- 7.3. Playpoint, who are based in Birkenhead and South Wirral Youth Hubs and Bebington Youth Club, have continued to liaise with youth clubs to look at ways to work together to encourage progression to youth provision. Links with Aiming High and Sure Start are well established and these organisations have provided access to valuable training. The Play for All project supports children with additional needs to attend the sessions. The trained Play Workers encourage inclusive play and interaction with the other children registered on the schemes. This has proved to be successful and a number of children now attend regularly without needing any extra support.
- 7.4. The new Spring Play Rangers programme has commenced and will finish at the end of July 2012. They will offer 20 play sessions a week covering four district areas as follows:

Birkenhead - Noctorum Estate; Mersey Park – Tranmere; Prenton Dell Park; New Chester Road – Rock Ferry; Tollemache Road – Claughton; Duck Pond Lane – Oxton; Merlin Road play area - Birkenhead.

Wallasey – Whiteheath Park – Leasowe; Wallacre Road play area – Wallasey; Yew Tree Road play area – Moreton; Tower Grounds - New Brighton; Brighton Street Cage – Wallasey; Belle Vue Cage – Seacombe; Central Park – Seacombe.

West Wirral – Meols Park – Meols; Carr Lane – Hoylake; Grange Community Park – West Kirby.

South Wirral - Port Causeway – Bromborough; Torr Park – Eastham; Bromborough Recreation Ground – Bromborough Rake.

The Play Rangers project has also been working in partnership with youth workers from the Borough-Wide Outreach Team in Mersey Park, Tranmere. They facilitate play activities for children and young people, and then encourage children to return home safely, so then Youth workers can engage with the young people over 13 years. This has proved to be a successful strategy working with over 40 plus children and young people.

- 7.5. Charing Cross have concentrated on the development of the Civic Awards Scheme and 32 children have registered. They have focused on the emergency services, visiting the local fire station and a trip to the life boat station is planned. There has also been some informal group work on how to stay safe on the streets particularly for those children who walk home in the dark. Children are encouraged to walk home in groups, and parents are advised to collect their children wherever possible. Children have learnt basic safety skills and how to keep themselves safe.
- 7.6. To coincide with World Book Day children at Livingstone Street have been sharing their favourite books with the play workers. The children have been recreating new front covers to their favourite stories and telling workers why they enjoy reading them. The children who took part also encouraged the children who did not like to read to get involved too. The children have also expressed an interest in making the playscheme more personal to them, so they are planning their 'perfect play scheme'. They are looking at the layout and appearance of the building. This encourages the children to take ownership of their space. Any suggestions and plans that are viable will be presented to the Joint Management Committee and will be included in future funding applications. The children took part in a sponsored 'bounceathon' and have managed to raise approximately £600 for the Livingstone Street play scheme. The children will be consulted on how they wish to spend the funds for the benefit of the scheme and local children.
- 7.7. During Easter, Gautby Road organised a family fun day for local children. Over 110 local parents and children attended the event. The Fire Service and Police provided activities and opportunities to explore the vehicles. There was face painting, a disco and various outside activities. It also provided an opportunity for local people to be consulted on the development of the new play area and join a consultation board who would be raising funds for new play equipment.
- 7.8. Over the previous few months the children at the Beechwood Play Centre has participated in various celebrations and activities. These include Australia Day were

the children learnt about Australian culture through displays and art projects. Boomerangs were made out of cardboard and decorated tin traditional aboriginal styles. The children also participated in a 'Bush Tucker Trial' experiencing and tasting unusual foods, such as Dragon fruit, dates, dried mango and olives. During Chinese New Year, with support from the local Chinese takeaway, the children prepared a small banquet with fortune cookies. The children also constructed a Dancing Dragon, learnt how to write their name in Chinese characters and how to use chop sticks. Valentines Day and Mothers' Day were celebrated with card making activities and Easter was celebrated with a Big Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Centre.

7.9. Leasowe Adventure Playground has been successfully awarded from Aiming High, £20,000 capital funds for additional build pieces of inclusive play equipment for the playground. These includes a multi see saw, a wheel chair roundabout, an imagination playground and two dark dens for sensory play.

7.10. The final number of children registered on full-time play provision from 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012 is as follows:

Total Children Registered Apr 2011 - March 2012							
Centre	Male Under 8	Female Under 8	Total Under 8	Male Over 8	Female Over 8	Total Over 8	Grand Total
Beechwood	18	20	38	97	73	170	208
Charing Cross	36	29	65	81	60	141	206
Gautby Rd.	26	25	51	29	50	79	130
Leasowe APG	46	44	90	70	73	143	233
Livingstone St.	31	39	70	35	37	72	142
BWOT	48	14	62	1	0	1	63
Totals	205	171	376	313	293	606	982

8.0. Training and Staff Development

8.1. Workforce Development - Many in-house courses are being attended by the Youth & Play workers including safeguarding children & young people, attendance management, safer recruitment and fraud awareness.

8.2. Work is continuing with the North West Regional Workforce Development group to address the void that has been left by dissolution of the NVQ part-time qualification in Youth Work. There are many changes taking place regarding how Youth Work training is delivered and funded. Regional and national groups are meeting regularly to find a suitable outcome which will enable workforce development to be appropriate for the learner, service providers and young people's needs.

9.0. Participation

9.1 The term of office for Wirral's United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) representatives is coming to an end. Recruitment and selection process will soon be under way to elect 4 new young people to carry on the good work of their predecessors. Sincere thanks go to the young people who have served their peers so well over the last 2 years. UKYP is now under the stewardship of British Youth Council.

- 9.2. Youth Opportunity Fund – the 2011-12 grants reached out to 39 Youth Projects. Annual returns are showing a significant increase in accredited outcomes for young people. Other evidence submitted shows positive interventions to the most vulnerable groups across Wirral i.e. homelessness, drug and alcohol interventions, reducing anti-social behaviour, positive activities and inter-generational work. The grants have also enabled the development and enhancement of partnership work between Local Authority, voluntary sector providers and other community groups.
- 9.3. YouthForia – The regional group of young people continue to work hard on the issues impacting on young people. Particular focus is currently being spent on the issues of Health, Transport and the young people's alternative spending plan. The alternative young people's spending plan has now been shared with Government representatives within the Treasury Department.
- 9.4. Executive Youth Board – Following last years' successful Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament, many young people registered their interest in getting involved in the many groups across Wirral. Recruitment and selection of young people to form a new group of representatives will soon take place. The new members will share responsibility of allocating the Youth Opportunity Fund as well as being the overarching group of representatives who will be available for consultation and other engagement opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Head of Universal Youth Support Service

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

29 MAY 2012

SUBJECT:	PLAY BUILDER PROGRAMME REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DAVID ARMSTRONG
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR SHEILA CLARKE
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with a final update of the completed Play Builder programme.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Play Pathfinder and Play Builder Programme flowed from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on the national play strategy, and was a key commitment in the Government's "Children's Plan", launched in December 2007.

2.2 In December 2008, £235m funding was made available by DCFS for national investment into play spaces as one of 5 key areas of Government action to deliver better play opportunities in children's play. Local authorities were invited to bid for a proportion of this investment.

2.3 In January 2009, Wirral Council successfully applied to DCSF and was awarded Wave 2 Play Builder status from April 2009. The Borough received capital funding of £1,129,445 and £45,648 revenue funding.

2.4 Over the two-year programme period, 2009-2011, the funding was to support the development or improvement of a minimum of 22 play areas across Wirral to ensure a variety of freely accessible play facilities specifically targeting the 8 -13 year age range. The programme sought to develop public play spaces close to where children live, make them safe, but also interesting, exciting and stimulating, whilst being available to all. It mirrored a similar ethos to the BIG Lottery Children's Play fund, namely being accessible to children and being free of charge with children free to come and go and free to choose what play activities they do.

2.5 The Play Builder programme also had to meet criteria set out by the DCSF in five key areas:

- **More places to play:** responding to children's demands for high quality play spaces in every area;

- **Supporting play throughout childhood:** improving provision through a range of settings for children of all ages;
 - **Playing safely:** providing safe, accessible and stimulating places for children to play;
 - **Child-friendly communities:** engaging communities and involving children in decisions; and
 - **Embedding play in local priorities:** ensuring leadership and effective delivery in every local area.
- 2.6 The initial Play Pathfinder application was prepared by Officers from the Youth and Play Service (Children and Young People's Department) and the Parks & Countryside Service (Regeneration Department). The Play Builder Project Plan (appendix 1) was produced to outline the delivery, project details, compliance with the key criteria and a list of the 22 proposed sites to be developed. It was submitted and approved by the DCSF in April 2009.
- 2.7 The Play Builder plan had a number of key objectives aligned with Wirral's strategic play objectives to improve the quality and accessibility of outdoor play provision on Wirral.
- Increase the number of opportunities for children and young people to engage in free play activities in areas of identified need.
 - Enable more children and young people to participate in a range of inclusive and accessible play experiences.
 - Improve children and young people's personal safety and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment, i.e. Parks and Open Spaces.
 - Consult with more children, young people and the Community, in the design, planning and delivery of play provision.
 - Improve the quality and the play value of local equipped play areas to include more varied and challenging equipment, which allow children to test their boundaries and take risks.
- 2.8 A Project Manager was appointed to manage the delivery of the Play Builder programme reporting to the Wirral Play Partnership and Youth and Play Advisory Committee.
- 2.9 The delivery of the Play Builder programme was commissioned to the Parks and Countryside Service and managed by the Project Manager who provided quarterly reports to the Wirral Play Partnership and the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee (YAPSAC) and, when appropriate, Cabinet update reports were submitted. The Project manager also reported to the monthly Departmental Capital Monitoring Group.
- 2.10 Wirral Play Partnership is the key mechanism for cross-service and departmental working in the development and promotion of play in Wirral. The Play Partnership Includes elected member representation; the membership is drawn from a wide range of departments within the authority and also includes local voluntary and community organisations. In addition, a Councillor was appointed as the Play Champion.

2.11 The first year programme was completed in March 2010, 11 play areas were built and improved (appendix 2 and 3). Due to the timescales involved and the grant conditions, year one sites were selected based on the Play Strategy audit and consultation, areas of identified need, geographical locations, maintenance cost, match funding opportunities and sites where there was strong community involvement. These sites were approved at the Cabinet on 23rd April 2009 and subject to further consultation with the Play Partnership the proposed year 2 sites were considered as projects for 2010/2011.

No. Year 1 sites Completed

1. Meols Recreation Play Area
2. Harrison Park, New Brighton
3. Ashton Park, West Kirby
4. New Ferry Park
5. Moreton Linear Park
6. Woodlands play area, Birkenhead
7. Irby Park
8. Newton Park
9. Tower Grounds, New Brighton
10. Victoria Park, Tranmere
11. Bromborough Recreation Ground

2.12 In June 2010, a ring fence was placed on the year two programme and the play capital and revenue funding were withdrawn. The Department for Education also removed any expectation on how many play facilities Councils were expected to deliver.

2.13 A further announcement in July 2010 led to the year 2 programme being put on hold until further notice. Therefore, the Wirral programme was suspended until the revised Play capital grant was allocated.

2.14 At this stage, three play areas had been committed for improvements. These were Warwick Park (were the contract had been awarded), Port Causeway and Whitfield Common. In addition to these sites expenditure had already been incurred on the purchase of play equipment in preparation for the year 2 programme.

2.15 In October 2010, the Department for Education announced Wirral's revised allocation of £373,990 to cover expenditure already incurred, contractual commitments and, as affordable, to support some other valued projects already identified in Wirral's year 2 programme.

2.16 Initial year 2 sites were finalised through further consultation and negotiation to ensure a strategic approach to the location of improved play areas with the Wirral Play Partnership across the Borough. However, a revised allocation of Play Builder capital grant meant 4 play areas received major improvements as well as the 3 sites already committed. The remaining sites had new play equipment installed determined by the revised budget allocation and the priority ranking list and any other additional funding that was available.

2.17 Projects to be delivered in the second year were chosen using a selection process, rationale and range of factors agreed by the Wirral Play Partnership.

- 2.18 The revised year two programme and play area sites were approved at Cabinet on 9th December 2010 (appendix 2 and 3). The year two programme was completed in November 2011.

No. Year 2 sites Completed

12. Whitfield Common, Heswall
13. Port Causeway, Bromborough
14. Warwick Park, Upton
15. Higher Bebington Recreation
16. Whiteheath Park, Leasowe
17. Tor Park, Eastham
18. Birkenhead Park
19. Arrowe Park
20. Central Park, Seacombe
21. Ilchester Square, Birkenhead
22. Duck Pond Lane, Oxton

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 This report is for information, therefore no risks are outlined.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 As this report is for information, this is not applicable.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In 2007, Wirral carried out a comprehensive play audit. The level of need and analysis was determined through a public consultation and a play audit. A number of surveys were undertaken including a children and young people's schools play audit, public playground survey and six focused neighbourhood studies. The views of stakeholders and children and young people informed how play provision could be improved and targeted to those areas of most need. This led to the production of the Wirral Play Strategy and Implementation Plan, which set out a framework of Wirral's understanding of play and its commitment to ensure all children and young people living within the Wirral area have access to quality play provision. It also informed the delivery of the BIG Lottery Children's Play Programme and subsequent Play Builder Programme. In addition to this work carried out for the Play Strategy, Wirral conducted a comprehensive Green Space asset review which also evaluated existing play facilities. The findings of the review were used as part of the site selection process and provided baseline information on which to measure the improvements after the completion of the programme.
- 5.2 Local consultation was conducted by Play Rangers, Play Practitioners and Friends of Parks groups on all 22 play areas allocated for improvements. Children and young people were involved in the decision making process, through local feeder schools, youth clubs, play centres, play area open days, Wirral Play Day and the Wirral Youth Conference. This included identifying their play needs, any barriers to playing outdoors and what they liked to experience through playing. The children worked in small focus groups which generated ideas and drawings. These were interpreted

and included in the final designs. This has led to the inclusion of more risky and challenging play equipment and natural materials being incorporated into the final play area plans. These key findings identified issues regarding the culture of play in Wirral and access to play opportunities. Children and young people also identified possible solutions which informed the planning, design and location of the individual play areas and how play provision could be delivered to meet their needs.

- 5.3 A focus group was held with parents and carers of disabled children at Stanley School to discuss access issues from their perspective. A number of questions were raised to generate their views around issues of equality and inclusion. Following this discussion an additional grant of £25,000 from Aiming Higher was secured to provide more inclusive play equipment. Specific consultation work with girls was also undertaken through a local secondary school, who preferred equipment which enabled more risky play experiences.
- 5.4 The general public also participated in the consultation process. A page on the Wirral Council website provided draft plans of all the identified play areas for improvement. Local residents were invited to comment on the designs and become involved in the planning process through public events.
- 5.5 The Youth and Play Service (now the Universal Youth Support Service) in conjunction with the Wirral Play Council led the consultation and the engagement of children and young people. The Parks and Countryside Service Landscape Team within the Council's Regeneration Department implemented the individual projects, including developing the final designs and managing the procurement and delivery of the construction contracts.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 Voluntary and community organisations have been directly involved in the consultation, planning, fund raising and delivery of a number of play area initiatives.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 Playbuilder capital and revenue allocation was revised in October 2010 by the Department of Education:

Playbuilder Capital			Minimum Number of play areas/year		
09/10	10/11	total	09/10	10-11	Total
£530,952	£373,990.63	£904,942.63	11	11	22
Playbuilder revenue					
2009-10	2010-11	Total			
£27,389	Nil	£27,389			

- 7.2 A new Grant Determination Letter from the Department for Education set out the new grant criteria and the revised allocation. The final year grant was paid in two equal instalments on 30th November 2010 and 28th February 2011.
- 7.3 No new play areas were built, only existing play sites were developed and improved; these are currently maintained by the Parks and Countryside Service. There was no

additional funding available for maintenance in the programme. However, a high percentage of play areas were full refurbishments replacing all existing play equipment and landscaping.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Playbuilder authorities had to comply with HM Treasury guidelines in the procurement of goods and services for the grant it received, so as to secure best value for money. In particular, contracts of work, equipment, stores and services were awarded on a competitive basis. Tendering procedures were in accordance with the EU Procurement Directive and UK Procurement Regulations, where applicable and any additional guidance issued by the Department for Education.

8.2 Wirral Council had to prepare and send a Statement of Expenditure (Annex G), certified by the Chief Financial Officer, the responsible officer under s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972, in respect of the Grant for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11 to the Department of Education.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Play Builder programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access. The programme endeavours to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities. The 22 improved Play areas are provided free of charge and geographically located across Wirral for all children, with a high density of play provision in areas of identified need.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There were none.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There were none.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 The committee is asked to note the report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The report is for information.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Play Builder Action Plan

Appendix 2 Play Builder Projects Year 1 and 2

Appendix 3 Play Areas Map

Appendix 4 Feel Safe, Play Safe Action Plan

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet– Play Builder Programme Report	23 April 2009
Cabinet– Revised Play Builder Programme Report	9 Dec 2010

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Wirral Council
Playbuilder
Project Plan
2009-2011



1) Overview of Project

- 1.1 Wirral's has a strong strategic commitment to play, with an already established cohesive play infrastructure. The Wirral Play Strategy and the five year Implementation Plan 2008-2012, sets out Wirral's key strategic aims and objectives to deliver its vision for play.

Wirral Council's vision statement for Play:

"Wirral Council recognises that every child has the right to play, and that play is essential to a child's life and vital to its development."

By Working with local communities, public agencies and voluntary agencies, it is committed to working towards providing and maintaining play opportunities sufficient in quantity, quality and range to meet the needs of children in Wirral.

- 1.2 Wirral has an extensive stock of existing equipped play areas, spread across the Borough. However, a large proportion of these play areas are now out-dated and no longer suited to the needs of children and young people today.

The PlayBuilder programme will revitalise children's access to local play provision through borough wide improvements to outdoor play spaces. It will target those areas of Wirral with current poor provision, as highlighted in the Wirral Play Strategy and the Asset Review.

The PlayBuilder programme and the BIG Lottery programme will be strategically linked through the process of community engagement and a planned approach adopted to ensure better and more improved play opportunities are delivered.

2) Which Fair Play aspirations are you seeking to achieve and how

The Fair Play Themes fit in with Wirral's strategic play objectives project and will have a major impact on improving the quality of outdoor play provision on Wirral.

1. Increase the number of opportunities for children and young people to engage in free play activities in areas of identified need.

2. Enable more children and young people to participate in a range of inclusive and accessible play experiences.
3. Improve children and young people's personal safety and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment. i.e. Parks and Open Spaces.
4. Consult with more children, young people and the Community, in the design, planning and delivery of play provision.
5. Improve the quality and the play value of local equipped play areas to include more varied and challenging equipment, which allow children to test their boundaries and take risks.

Overall, the programme will enable children to have more choice, where they want to play and decide what they want to do when they are there. It will raise the profile of play in local communities; creating more and better informal safe play opportunities and better outcomes for children and young people. It will seek to further embed play within local priorities and provide a cohesive framework for Playwork delivery which local and national performance indicators.

3) How will you work across service departments within the authority?

Wirral Play Partnership is the key mechanism for cross-service and departmental working in the development and promotion of play in Wirral. The Play Partnership includes representatives from a wide range of departments within the authority and also local voluntary and community organisations, including representation from three Councillors.

A Councillor has been appointed as the Play Champion and the Wirral Play Partnership has evolved through cross-sector representation from the voluntary and statutory sectors. These have enhanced the profile and importance of play within Wirral communities and across service departments. The Play Partnership and the development of the play strategy has also brought together agencies to strategically plan, analyse, prioritise and identify gaps in the delivery of play. Children and young people were also involved in this process of planning and delivery and are consulted about their play need and preferences.

The development of the Wirral Play Partnership and the formulation of the integrated delivery of Children's services have served to support and embed play in local infrastructure. It is open to any agency or local group committed to supporting the development of children's play in Wirral.

Play Partnership meetings are used to monitor the progress of the Play Strategy and as a forum to discuss issues that effect young people's access to play. The group can then decide whether any other service providers need to be invited to future meetings to see how these issues can be alleviated.

<p>Wirral Play Partnership Membership: Chair of YAPSAC, Children's Service & Lifelong Learning Overview Scrutiny Committee Children & Young People's Dept, Wirral MBC, Head of Participation & Inclusion Link Forum- Voluntary and Community Sector Rep. Friends Of Parks Wirral Play Council Councillor Representatives Youth & Play Service Early Years/Surestart/Children's Centres Wirral Children's Fund Heads of Schools Parks & Countryside Extended Schools Community Service Sports Development Culture-Libraries Health & Safety Aiming Higher For Disability</p>	<p>Play Champion Groundwork PE Advisory Sport Youth Offending Service Community Safety Mersey Travel BME Groups WIRED Looked After Children Health Transport Housing- Riverside Wirral Partnership Homes Child Protection Anti-Social Behaviour Team Community Safety Police Fire Service Road Safety Forward Planning Woodcraft Folk</p>
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Voluntary Sector Play

Since 1974, play in Wirral has been firmly established within the voluntary play sector. This has provided a solid foundation on which to build play provision which has evolved directly from community engagement and local voluntary support. Wirral Council works in partnership with the voluntary play sector to strategically develop play and support mechanisms to help embed play in local provision. The development of other plans, strategies and proposals for services is crucial to an effective sustainable policy. In particular the development of Play Strategy and joined-up thinking has led to new approaches towards the provision of appropriate, inspiring, challenging, inclusive and sustainable play.

4) Provide an overview of your authority's strategic approach to play and how it links to local spatial planning frameworks, and relevant strategies on community safety and transport (this should be reflected in both your Children and Young People's Plan & Sustainable Community Strategy).

4.1 In April 2006, Wirral Council created a Children's and Young People's Department for the borough. The authority works closely with other statutory and third sector agencies and to provide key quality services for children, co-ordinated through a Children and Young People's Partnership Board. Play sits within the Youth & Play service in the Children's and Young People's Department. The Wirral Play Strategy 2007-2012 (see link below) contributes to meeting Wirral's specific outcomes as outlined in the Children and Young People's plan and has a number of key priorities which strategically link with other plans including transport and community safety

http://active.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100003/200104/content_0000349.html

Priority 1

Enable greater access to freely chosen play and a wide range of quality play opportunities

- Transport and accessibility
- Localised play provision
- School
- Health
- Safety and Risk

Priority 2

Develop quality play environments and standards for play

- Local standards for play
- Enriching play environments

Priority 3

Promote community involvement, engagement and mediation

- Community engagement
- Community involvement

Priority 4

Establish and effective delivery mechanism for play

- Information and advice
- Network support
- Raising profile and importance of play
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Play training and professional development

Priority 5

Enable children and young people to express their views and opinions about the development of play

- Consultation and involvement

4.2 Wirral Children & Young People's Plan 2008-2011

Wirral Council produced a single strategic Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 for all services affecting children and young people, including play and leisure.

http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100005/content_0002189.html)

Wirral's plan covers all services provided for children and young people in the borough and brings together all plans to improve their lives and enable them to achieve their potential. It sets out a vision for children and young people and details the key priorities and actions for delivering the plan. Play contributes to meeting Wirral's specific outcomes is a key component of the plan with its own priority for improvement in the *Positive Contribution* outcome.

'Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play opportunities which meet their needs'

Play features significantly in the Wirral's children and young peoples plan, which shows an on-going commitment to play and a strategic approach in sustainability and the delivery of child-centred services. Play is an important factor in a number of national indicators and local priorities.

- NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport
- NI 48 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
- NI 199 Children and young people's satisfaction with play areas

4.3 More Equal, More Prosperous - A Sustainable Community Strategy for Wirral

Currently, a public consultation process is now underway with regard to Wirral's draft Sustainable Community Strategy - *Wirral 2025 – More Prosperous, More Equal*. The draft strategy has been produced by Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership. The document sets out a number of key challenges which Play can have a positive impact. Wirral in partnership will plan and take action together to deliver:

- **A strong local economy** for Wirral;
- **Safer, stronger communities** in all parts of the borough
- The best possible **health and well-being** for all families and individuals
- Excellent **life chances for children and young people**
- A high quality **living and working environment**
- **Sustainable, appropriate housing** for all

4.4 Wirral's corporate priorities

Play also has a key input into a number of Wirral's corporate priorities:-

Providing Educational and Cultural Opportunities for all Extending Learning Opportunities

- Supporting the work of Sure Start and encouraging play groups, holiday
- activities, outreach and childcare opportunities
- Ensuring that activities for young people are accessible and reflect their needs and
- Aspirations

Improving the Health of Wirral People Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles

- Increasing the number and quality of play areas
- Improving access and use of recreational facilities and services

Making Wirral Safer

Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime

Reducing Anti-Social Behavior

- Improving safety in parks
- Actively working through the Youth Service and other agencies to engage young people, to listen to them and to provide positive forms of recreation and activity
- Supporting and encouraging play schemes, holiday activities and outreach programmes for young people

5) Briefly outline how this project fits strategically to Lottery Play projects.

The PlayBuilder programme and the BIG Lottery projects are intrinsically linked in terms of strategic approach and final delivery which will ultimately benefit children and young people's access to improved and better play opportunities. The Wirral Play Strategy and Implementation Plan contextualises the overall objectives, actions and targets we will meet as part of a comprehensive delivery plan for Play.

A number of the key recommendations of Wirral's Play Strategy fit with the ambitions of the Play Builder programme. In particular:-

1.0 - Enable greater access to freely chosen play and a wide range of quality play opportunities

Objective 1.6 - Enhance local areas for play to increase play value

Objective 1.7 – Increase and improve available facilities for children and young people in areas of most need

2.0 - Develop quality play environments

Objective 2.5 – Incorporate more natural features into local play spaces

3.0 - Promote community involvement and mediation

Objective 3.2 – Support the role of local community groups in the role stewardship and involvement to enhance and develop local play provision

Objective 3.4 –Promote opportunities to develop play opportunities with Friends of Parks

5.0 - Enable children and young people to express their views and opinions about the development of play

Objective 5.1 - Provide opportunities for children and young people to be involved and consulted in the development and delivery of play provision

These key findings informed the main priorities of the Play Strategy and Implementation Plan 2007-2012 and were also translated into ideas for the BIG lottery funded portfolio of projects and the PlayBuilder Programme. The Playbuilder programme and projects it delivers will compliment and enhance those projects being delivered through the Big Lottery

- Safer routes to play and feeling safe
- More opportunities for informal supervised play in parks/open spaces
- More risk and challenge in equipped play areas
- Access to natural play environments
- Presence of trained community play workers
- More inclusive play opportunities
- Use of schools after hours for community play activities
- Formal supervised play provision e.g. open access play scheme all year round

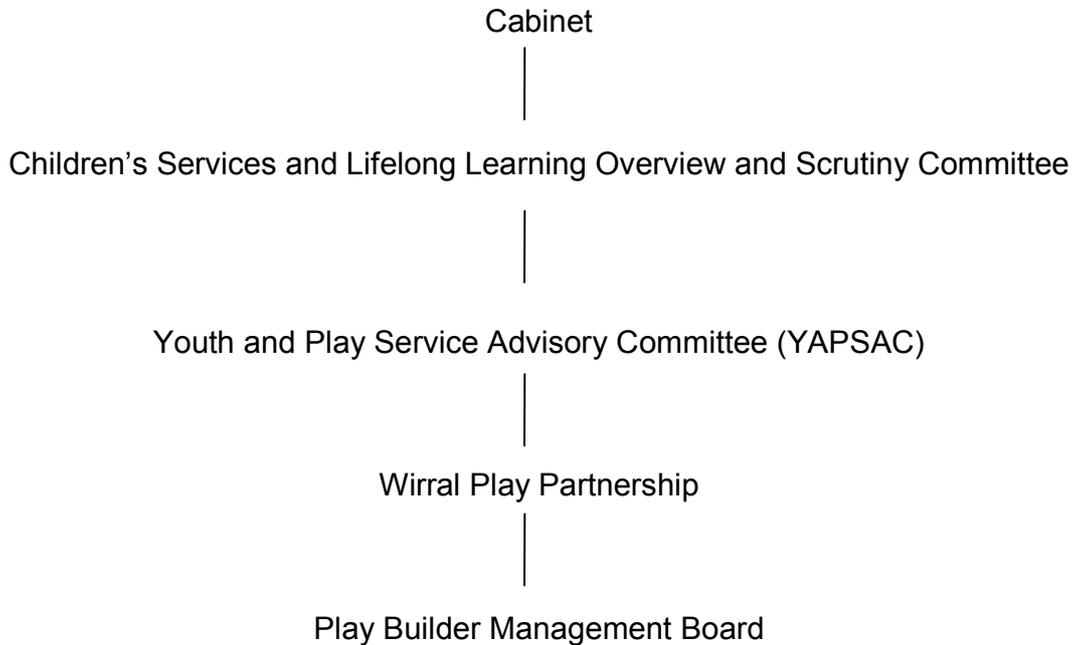
6) Briefly outline local governance arrangements

The responsibility for the DSCF PlayBuilder Programme and reporting to Cabinet sits with the Children and Young People's Department, Participation and Inclusion Branch. The Head of Branch has overall responsibility for ensuring the success of the project. (see appendix A).

An identified Senior Project Manager will be appointed to manage the delivery of the PlayBuilder programme reporting to the Wirral Play Partnership and PlayBuilder Management Board.

The Playbuilder programme will reported to elected members through the following reporting mechanism.

Reporting Mechanism



7) **Briefly outline project management arrangements for this project.**

The PlayBuilder programme will be commissioned to the Parks & Countryside service and managed by the Senior Project manager and who will provide quarterly reports to the Strategic Lead for Play in the Youth & Play Service. This will be reported to the Wirral Play Partnership and the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee (YAPSAC). The Strategic Lead for Play will report quarterly to elected members through YAPSAC and the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the delivery of the PlayBuilder programme. Where appropriate Cabinet update reports will be submitted.

There will be quarterly monitoring to agreed milestones which reports to the Departmental Management Team which identifies areas when there is need to provide additional support. The key milestones will have specific deadlines monitored using the Performance Information Management System.

The budget for the project will be monitored through monthly financial statements by the Senior Project manager and the Finance section of the Children and Young People's Department. This will monitor actual spend against projected budget to ensure cost effective management of the portfolio and delivery of the projects within the designated timescales.

The Wirral Play Partnership will provide support for the projects led by Senior Project manager. Individual monitoring meetings will be scheduled, to progress milestones, monitor outcomes, provide supervisory support (where appropriate), and to act as a sounding board to support the development of the project.

Regular written reports will be provided on the projects and strategies to improve practice will be discussed and disseminated. Observing the delivery project in action and involving children and young people in accessing quality of provision against set standards.

The programme will be delivered using Prince 2 methodology or similar.

8) Provide details of the staffing arrangements for this Project

A project team has been set up, and an implementation and reporting framework is being developed for Wirral's PlayBuilder programme.

Wirral will identify a Senior Project manager to ensure the success of the project within the 2 year timescale of the programme.

The Playbuilder Management Board will link directly and report to the Wirral Play Partnership. This includes the following representatives:

Head of Branch, Participation & Culture, C & YP Dept. (Peter Edmondson)
Strategic Lead on Play (Deputy Head Youth & Play Service, Steve Chan)
Head of Parks and Countryside (Dave Cowling)
Principal Officer, Parks and Countryside (Roger Calvert)
Senior Landscape Architect (Jackie Smallwood)
Senior Project Manager (tbc)
Elected member (tbc)
Principal Manager - Finance
Play England Representative

The group will be tasked to:-

- ensure the project meets its aims and objectives, approve project briefs and recommend project expenditure.
- report to the Wirral Play Partnership and brief elected members.
- monitor and evaluate project progress.
- recommend sign off individual projects.
- advise on design brief and specification.

9) Continued engagement

There will be continued engagement with the local community, children and young people throughout project development and construction. The findings and consultation methodology of the Play Strategy will form the basis for continued community engagement. Children and young people from local feeder primary schools and play facilities will participate in on-site design and development of the play areas. This will take the form of regular update meetings, correspondence, bulletins and possible hands on involvement on site through planting or the installation of artwork etc., whichever is appropriate for each project.

Each new or improved play space will have to fit in strategically with local play area plans and local community groups, friends of parks, will be involved in the process.

10) Details on development of play areas

Once the first years site selection has been agreed, relevant schools, community and user groups will be contacted to develop a design for the proposed site.

The Parks and Countryside Service Landscape Team within the Council's Regeneration Department will implement the project, including the design development and procurement of the construction contract.

Wirral has already carried out a comprehensive play audit. The level of need and analysis was determined through a comprehensive public consultation and play audit, a number of surveys were undertaken including a children and young people's, schools play audit, public playground survey and six focused neighbourhood studies.

The views of stakeholders and children and young people informed how play provision could be improved and targeted to those areas of most need. This led to the production of the Wirral Play Strategy which set out a framework of Wirral's understanding of play and its commitment to ensure all children and young people living within the Wirral area have access to quality play provision.

Partnership work with the Play service will enable further neighbourhood consultation to be carried out with children and young people, particularly on individual play area location.

In addition to this work carried out for the Play Strategy, Wirral has since had a comprehensive Green space asset review which also evaluated existing play facilities. The findings of this review will also be used as part of the site selection process and can also provide baseline information on which to measure the improvements after project completion.

The PlayBuilder programme will deliver the following projects in 2009-10:

1. Meols Rec. Play Area
2. Harrison Park
3. Ashton Park
4. Tower Grounds
5. Woodlands
6. Newferry Park
7. Irby Park
8. Birkenhead Park
9. Newton Park
10. Victoria Park
11. Bromborough rec.

The selected projects will have detailed individual project plans. Play spaces/areas chosen to benefit from PlayBuilder will be located within Parks and Open Spaces. One scheme (Birkenhead Park) will require planning permission in the first year of the programme. The involvement and consultation of local residents, user groups and Friends groups in the development of the project should raise any problems early in the programme, and also aid the planning process.

Projects to be delivered in the second year will be chosen using a selection process agreed by the Wirral Play Partnership. The following rationale and range of factors will be used:

- Geographical Location
- Identified area of deprivation
- Child obesity levels
- Child population levels within ward boundary
- Strategic findings of the Play Strategy
- Involvement of children and young people
- Quantity of play areas (Play Strategy and Green space asset data)
- Quality of play areas (Green space asset data)
- Support and link with play projects (BIG Lottery projects)
- Level of community support and stewardship
- Accessibility and Safety
- Maintenance cost
- Potential additional match funding to enhance project brief

Key targets, milestones, charts and timelines using various project management tools to be produced on project approval.

11) Innovation

Innovation in terms of the design of the play areas will be linked to local needs and interests and will be tailored to each site location.

It is one of Wirral's play priorities to provide challenging equipped play areas that allow children to test boundaries and explore risk.

A number of improvements will be made to play areas, with more risk and challenging play features built into the design. This template for design of play areas will provide a benchmark and a more innovative approach to the design and delivery of fixed play areas. Children and young people's views and involvement in the design, planning and delivery will be intrinsic to the development of the improved play areas.

In areas of identified need and in partnership with user groups and friends of Parks groups increase the value of the existing play provision through the inclusion of more varied and challenging equipment, which will allow children to test boundaries and explore risk. These facilities will endeavour to be fully inclusive, and will be developed through direct engagement with young people, with particular emphasis on the 8-13 year old target group.

Site visits to view similar projects in other areas will be arranged to share good practice and investigate the possibilities to be included in the local design brief. This will include trips for children and young people who will have opportunity to share views and ideas with their peers.

Community Play Rangers through the BIG Lottery children's play programme will support children's access and safety to encourage the use play areas, and generate interest and involvement from the local community by promoting the benefits of play.

12) Engagement

Wirral has a history of working in partnership with local residents, community groups, Friends groups and other stakeholders, and also has experience of developing schemes with young people using various funding streams including Lottery Fair Share/Big, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Youth Opportunities funding and council own Capital funds. An example of this was young people applied for Youth Opportunity funding (YOF) consulted with local residents and an area forum to gain wider support and credibility for the scheme. The group were awarded funding through the YOF, which is made up of a panel of Young people, and the scheme was implemented providing a new play area for younger children and specific facilities for young people which met their needs.

The views and input of children, parents and the wider community will be captured through the use of questionnaires, focus groups and Play days.

13) Best practice

Wirral will use its existing regional and national links to share good practice with other neighbouring partners. Wirral projects have been used on a number of occasions as case studies. This includes the National Play Strategy Children Now, and Play England, North West publications. Wirral employees and voluntary play agencies regularly conferences and seminars to seek to learn from other authorities and share good practice.

The Parks & Countryside Service are members of Greenspace North West, which is part of a national network. The primary function of this forum is to share ideas and best practice. We will be able to share our PlayBuilder experiences through the forum which will be circulated to the Network both regionally and nationally.

14&15) Access & Safety

The selection of the 22 Play sites to benefit from the PlayBuilder will be based on the Play audit, assessment of local need and ongoing consultation.

Wirral's BIG Lottery Fund portfolio 'Play in the Peninsular' will be intrinsically linked with the Play Pathfinder proposal. It will support children's access to outdoor play space through Community Play Rangers and a 'provision together' approach enabling vulnerable children and young people to access local play provision and engage with their peers.

The new and improved play areas will encourage and enable physically active play; which are attractive to 8-13 year olds; and which more children, including disabled children, can access safely. They will be open access, free of charge and with children generally free to independently come and go as they please. They will increase the range of play opportunities in fixed play areas, provide opportunities for children to experience risk, be challenged and stimulate children's abilities and development. We will actively engage with children and young people at an early stage to get them involved in the design development of play sites. Location and entry access points will be considered in the overall design brief to encompass children's patterns of usage and improve access and safety to play areas.

A full risk assessment will be carried out for each individual PlayBuilder project.

Community Play rangers will monitor usage and enhance the use of the play areas by supporting children in their play and increasing their 'feel safe factor'.

Ensuring Parental Confidence – address parental concerns for children's safety, through working closely with local schools, community groups and local parents to promote the "Play Safe" campaign.

On-going dialogue through the Play partnership with Road Safety will look at establishing safer routes to play through educational awareness programmes and location of 20 mph zones around improved play areas with high level usage.

16) How will you ensure the sustainability of this project?

Misuse of green spaces is a complex issue, and community engagement/ownership, positive activities, quality spaces and good design all have a part to play in the sustainability and usability of the space.

The design quality and future maintenance implications of each proposed site will be assessed to ensure sustainability. A risk assessment in relation to potential vandalism will be carried out for the play sites, and this will influence the final design specification. Wirral will encourage and support local community groups to have ownership of their local play space, in terms of sustainability and stewardship.

The Parks and Countryside service within the Regeneration Department is responsible for providing and managing Wirral's fixed play provision. The maintenance of Play Areas is undertaken by two Playground Maintenance teams, who carry out weekly recorded condition inspections. These teams will also be involved with the design and delivery of the Playbuilder programme, which will ensure that they are aware of any changes to maintenance regimes and emphasis.

Sustainable Development

Wirral Council has a commitment to sustainable development, or "a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations". This commitment is part of our response to the global action plan for sustainable development Agenda 21. It numbers us amongst thousands of local authorities throughout the world all playing their part. The Council's general commitment is expressed through a corporate policy for sustainable development.

Wirral Council is a major consumer of goods and services. We recognise that the goods and services we purchase have an impact on the environment and human development both locally and globally. We aim to reflect our commitment to sustainable development and equality through the goods and services we purchase.

Wirral's' policy is Sustainable procurement should meet normal procurement imperatives (Best Value) but not by: -

- Exploiting labour, working conditions and pay.
- Undermining local cultures, values, practices and legal requirements.
- Damaging future economic and social prosperity of the individual community, country, and future generations.
- Exhausting or damaging natural resources, wildlife, habitat and bio-diversity.

- Polluting air, land and water.

The purpose of this policy is to help minimise impact on the environment by providing staff with information and practical help to assist them to buy or specify products that cause the least environmental damage.

17) **Detail of design brief agreements**

The design brief for each site will be drawn up in partnership with user groups and the project board.

The design brief for each project will show:

- Clear objectives
- Scope
- Timescales
- Costs

The development of the brief will consider the following local factors and the ten key principles outlined in the 'Design for Play' document produced by Play England and the Free Play Network for the DCSF.

- This would include information on historical background, a map of current site and surrounding area.
- The idea would be an inspirational design brief different from existing play areas. Each play area would consider its current location and how the design brief would fit in context with its environmental surroundings and meet the needs of the community.
- Each quality play area to include opportunities for play with the natural habitat, natural landscaping, vegetation i.e. boulders, low level flat stone slabs to climb on (for younger children). Also opportunities for challenging and adventurous play as identified by children and young people in the Wirral Play Strategy neighbourhood audit and consultation.
- Play areas to be accessible to disabled and non-disabled children
- A minimum of straight lines, lots of curves and organic shapes, a varied topography
- Make use of natural mounds and slopes, avoiding uniformity
- Access to some elemental play (water, earth and air)

- Shelter from the elements, or possibly children can temporarily add materials to form shelters which can be removed later
- Informal seating areas (use of natural logs, tree stumps) and enough quantity to encourage parental involvement
- Fencing - appropriate fencing sympathetic with area and environment.
- Surfacing – use of grass mats were possible, limit black safety surfacing to minimum requirements. Use areas of sand if possible to increase play value.
- Incorporating surrounding area into design to enhance play value of the overall site.
- Involve children and young people in the planning, design and delivery of provision i.e. preferred play equipment; incorporate their design ideas and features.
- Target age for play areas, and consideration of other ages in wider strategic play development.

18) Detail of Council approval process

A committee report will be produced detailing the draft action plan and site selection process. The Wirral Cabinet will then confirm final approval process and areas of delegated responsibility.

19&20 Evaluation

Wirral has a track record of delivering community based schemes on time and within budget. The sustainability of the sites after completion is ensured through the inclusion of the sites into the Councils inspection and maintenance programme.

As part of the Play strategy a comprehensive annual play review will be conducted to determine the overall progress of the BIG Lottery portfolio and the Play strategy Implementation Plan. An annual event will celebrate the success of the projects, and promote the importance of play across Wirral. Given the close links with the Pathfinder programme this will automatically be incorporated into this review, which includes mechanisms to involve children and young people and the local community in the monitoring of the plan.

A quantitative and qualitative analysis and evaluation of the portfolio will be conducted. Project milestones will be linked to portfolio outcomes through monitoring on a quarterly basis to measure performance of the portfolio. For example, the number of children, number of play sessions, impact of the projects to enable children to feel safer in their play space.

The Local Authority management evaluation tool kit - PIMS (Performance Information Management System) will be used to measure the success of the portfolio. Projects will have milestones to meet and will be measured against performance indicators using the traffic light system (red, amber and green). These will contribute to achieving the overall portfolio outcomes procedures.]

User satisfaction surveys and focus groups with children, young people and adults will be conducted to ascertain the success of the portfolio and improve future practice. Observations will be carried out to monitor play equipment usage and attendance at new and improved play sites. Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with delivery agents will ensure targets are being met and play provision is being effectively delivered locally. Below is an example of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Input	Output	Outcomes	Impact
Play areas x 4 districts New fixed play equipment	No. of children using play areas	20% more children feel safer playing out beyond confines of home	Increased physical activity contributes to the reduction of child obesity levels Help children manage acceptable risk Contributes to Play Strategy plan, local CYPP + ECM outcomes
Milestones: Design play areas, C & YP focus groups Collate baseline data Identify outdoor locations Deliver supervised outdoor play sessions			
Monitoring process		Evaluation process	

21& 22) Brief details of procurement & construction time lines in place

Project Planning

Once the grant has been awarded, a programme of works will be developed for each project. This will provide key target dates for the

implementation of each of the projects, from consultation and design development through to detailed design, tender process and construction period.

Design development and procurement

The landscape team will be responsible for the design development, specification and tendering for the project. They will be providing drawings and specifications for the equipment and materials to be used, and will then issue tender documents and contracts will be awarded, all in accordance with the Councils procedures for Landscape works.

A detailed two year procurement programme has not yet been produced, once the grant conditions and approval of the first year spend have been received this will be produced. However, an initial draft programme for Year 1 has been included.

Delivery and Involvement

The Parks and Countryside Service - Landscape Team within the Council will implement the project, including the design development, specification and procurement of the construction contract.

Parks and Countryside Service's Professional Landscape Team has a wealth of previous experience in delivering similar projects. They have implemented numerous grant aided projects, and accounted for outputs and financial results for Lottery funding including Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery and other funding bodies such as NWDA and SRB, Objective 1 ERDF, ESF, as well as smaller community led projects.

23) Opening date agreed

No precise opening dates have been set, but these will be planned once the first years schedule has been agreed, and consultation has started with the user groups, children and young people etc.

WORK PROGRAMME - YEAR 1

Month	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Works												
Community Consultation & Design Development	2	2						2		2		
		3		3	6	6	6		6		6	
		8	8	5	5	5		5		5		5
					7	7	7		7			
	4	4	4		4		4					
						9	9		9			
		10	10			10					11	
Planning							5	5	5			
Tender/Procurement												
Tender Preparation Tender Period	1		4	4								
		3	3		2	2		6	6			
			8			7	7					
				10				9	9			
								11	11	5	5	
Construction												
Contract period/On site Construction		1	1					1				
				3				2	2			
				8	10	10					5	5
								7	7	6	6	
							4	4		9	9	
											11	11
Opening Event (Indication only date to be agreed with Community)												
			1		3							
					8							

1 Meols Rec	4 Newferry Park	7 Irby Park	10 Victoria Park
2 Harrison Park	5 Birkenhead Park	8 Newton Park	11 Bromborough Rec.
3 Ashton Park	6 Woodlands	9 Tower Grounds	

24) **Risks & Contingency plans**

The following details the Wirral’s procedure and processes, in terms of risk.

Identifying Risks

The following risks have been identified for this project:

- Failure to secure funding
- Delays to the timing of the project

Impact Assessment

In order for the overall likely effect of the identified risks to be addressed, the anticipated impact for each risk must be chartered against the likelihood of that risk occurring. The table below shows a probability/impact Matrix. Once the probability and impact have been identified for each risk, an overall risk factor can be derived, ranging from low, through medium to high and very high.

Probability/Impact Matrix

		Impact		
		Low Minor impact on project schedule or cost; no impact on benefits	Medium Major impact on project schedule or cost; minor impact on benefits	High Major impact on project schedule or cost; major impact on benefits
Probability	Low Unlikely <15%	L	L	M
	Medium Fairly Likely >15%-<85%	L	M	H
	High Very Likely >85%	M	H	VH

The following table applies the Matrix to each risk identified in order to assess their impact.

RISK	DESCRIP.	IMPACT	PROBA-BILITY	OVERALL RISK	REASONING
Failure to secure funding	Failure to secure funding from the DCSF	High	Low	Medium	<p>Funding is sought from the DCSF</p> <p>The application has been invited; therefore, the probability of the funding source not being forthcoming is low.</p> <p>The impact of no funding for this project would be high, both in terms of the schedule, and of the proposed benefits, as the scheme would not proceed at all at the present time.</p>
Delays to the timing of the project	Delays in statutory approval of the scheme or appointment of the contractor or securing funding	High	Low	Medium	<p>Delays to the timing of the project could occur for a number of different reasons. Those suggested here include, appointment of the contractor, failure to secure funding within the proposed timescales and weather conditions during the construction phase. The impact of such delays on the project would be high, The probability of such delays occurring is assumed to be low since Wirral Council is experienced in managing such projects and has already put in place the necessary mechanisms which will allow for the project to progress smoothly.</p>

Results

The results of the impact assessment have clarified the risks. All risks have been identified as having a potentially significant impact on the project. Therefore, it is important to investigate ways of minimising the risks by identifying steps which can be taken to mitigate against them, or if this is not possible, to suggest contingency plans which could be put into place.

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURE
Failure to secure funding	Feedback to date has been very positive. Failure to secure the funding would result in the scheme would not proceeding.
Delays to the timing of the project	On receipt of funding approval a programme timetable will be developed to deliver the projects within the desired timescales

25) Financial forecast

Sites subject to grant conditions and project agreement. However, a first year expenditure programme for 2008-2009 would look like this.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1.	Meols Rec. Play Area	£10k
2.	Harrison Park	£30k
3.	Ashton Park	£50K
4.	New Ferry Park	£30k
5.	Birkenhead Park	£81k
6.	Woodlands play area	£50k
7.	Irby Park	£70k
8.	Newton Park	£50K
9.	Tower Grounds	£60k
10.	Victoria Park	£50k
11.	Bromborough Recreation Ground	£50k
	Total	531K

Year 2: Possible Project list:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
12.	Central Park	£60k
13.	Whiteheath Park	£80k
14.	Lingham Park	£40k
15.	Upton Park	£50k
16.	Ilchester Square	£49k
17.	Arrowe Park	£120k
18.	Coronation Park	£40k
19.	Whitfield Common	£10k
20.	Higher Beb. Rec.	£80k
21.	Port Causeway	£10k
22.	Torr Park	£60k
	Total	599K

APPENDIX 2

Year 1 Play Builder Programme 2009 - 2010					
	Site name	DCSF Funding	Total match funding	Source of match funding	Completed
1	Meols Rec. Play Area	10,000	24,975	Community Spaces	Jul-09
			7,250	Friends of Meols Park	
			50,022	BIG Lottery Children's Play	
2	Harrison Park, Wallasey	30,000			Mar-10
3	Ashton Park, West Kirby	50,000	13,000	Friends of Ashton park	Nov-09
4	New Ferry Park, New Ferry	30,000	50,022	Parks & Countryside	Feb-09
5	Moreton Linear Park	81,000			Apr-10
6	Woodlands play area, B'Head	50,000	49,750	Community Spaces	Apr-10
7	Irby Park, Irby	70,000			Apr-10
8	Newton Park, West Kirby	50,000			Mar-09
9	Tower Grounds, New Brighton	60,000			Mar-10
10	Victoria Park, Tranmere	50,000			Feb-09
11	Bromborough Recreation Ground	50,000			Mar-10
	TOTAL	531,000	195,019		

Year 2 Play Builder Programme 2010 – 2011					
	Site name	DCSF Funding	Total match funding	Source of match funding	Opening month
1	Central Park, Wallasey	16,000	15,000	Parks & Countryside	Oct- 11
2	Whiteheath Park, Leasowe	70,000			Feb - 11
3	Birkenhead Park	50,000	10,000	Parks & Countryside	Feb - 11
4	Warwick Park, Overchurch/Upton	50,000	9,869	Parks & Countryside	Jul - 10
5	Ilchester Sq., North B'head	16,000	14,000	Parks & Countryside	Jun - 11
6	Arrowe Park	16,000			Mar - 11
7	Duck Pond Lane (Oxton Fields)	16,000			Mar -11
8	Whitfield Common, Heswall	10,000	50,022	BIG Lottery Children's Play	Nov - 10
9	Higher Bebington Rec.	60,000			Feb - 11
10	Port Causeway, New Ferry	10,000	50,022	BIG Lottery Children's Play	Jan - 11
11	Torr Park, Eastham	60,000			Feb - 11
	TOTAL	374,000	148,913		

Impact

The Play Builder programme for year 1 and 2 commenced in April 2009, improving and refurbishing 22 play areas. The final play area, Central Park, Seacombe was finished in November 2011. During this period, BIG Lottery funded play projects, including the Play Rangers, have supported the programme through consultation and engagement with local children or by direct face to face play sessions located in the improved play areas. This has enabled children to feel safer when playing outdoors and parents to feel more confident about allowing their children to play out with friends. This has also increased opportunities for children to engage with the wider community which supports children's independence and resilience essential for a healthy childhood.

Monitoring the improved play areas has shown that numbers of children playing out has increased. This strategy has enabled children to have more access to safe outdoor play space and supports the child obesity programme by improving and maintaining children's physical and mental health. A play area satisfaction report was completed consulting with 143 children and young people. The general census was children and young people were satisfied with the improvements. 76% of children surveyed reported the play area was either very good or good. This increase has been reflected in national indicator for play, NI 199, Children's and Young People's satisfaction with parks and play areas. The indicator ran alongside the Play Builder programme resulting in an increase in satisfaction by a margin of 5.9% from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Overall, more children have been using the newly equipped play areas. This is supported by the observations of the Play Rangers who have utilised the sites to run outdoor play sessions during holiday periods and after-school.

The programme was also complimented by the support of local Friends of Parks groups and community groups who generated extra funding to support further improvements. Meols Park, one of the first play areas to be completed, was an excellent example of community involvement, ownership and collaborative engagement. Since, its completion in July 2009, it has attracted hundreds of children each week. A survey of park attendance revealed that out of 382 pupils from Great Meols Primary school, 342 pupils have been using the Park since it opened. The Park attracts children and parents from other local areas, including Hoylake, Moreton and Frankby. The involvement of Friends of Parks groups has also encouraged stewardship and the opportunity to monitor usage.

Play England was appointed by DCSF to help deliver the Government's vision for the future of play. Play England supported local authorities receiving funding under the Government's new play Pathfinder and Play Builder programmes. A RAG rating system of performance management was utilised to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the programmes and a green RAG rating was consistently attained by the Wirral programme during this period.

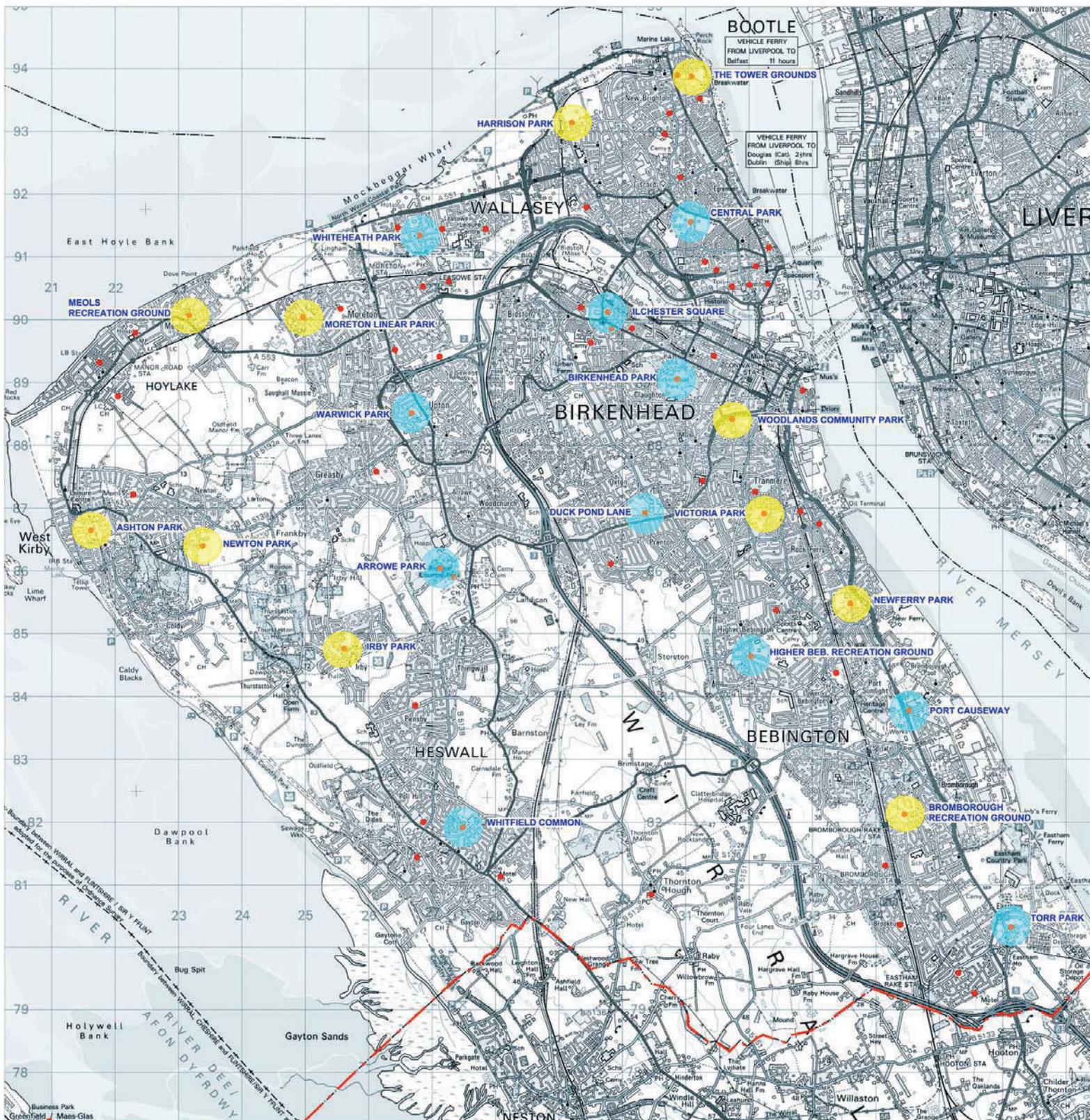
During the final year, a number of play areas were officially opened by elected members including Whiteheath – Leasowe; Ilchester Park – Birkenhead; Torr Park – Eastham; Higher Bebington play area; Port Causeway – Bromborough; Warwick Park - Upton and Meols Park recreation ground. The Open Days were celebratory events and showed community spirit and dedicated support to local projects. Councillors, local school children and families attended the events which were publicised in the press.

Access and Safety

Children and young people (244) were surveyed on how safe they felt when playing out. The data was analysed and the key findings were developed into tasks as part of the 'Feel Safe, Play Safe' Action Plan designed to reduce children's fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment. It was also to support the development of children's independence and resilience and how they could keep themselves safe whilst playing out. The main issues addressed were traffic and roads, groups of older youths, fear of being alone and bullying issues (appendix 4). A number of tasks and actions reflected in the recommendations of the Play Strategy Implementation plan. Consultation opportunities were built into the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament for young people to describe where they are concerned about safety. These returns were used to inform programmes in youth clubs and the commissioning of services.

During Road Safety Week children participated in awareness activities about how to safely cross roads and ways they can keep themselves safe. The 130 children who attended the safety sessions all received reflective neon stickers and arm bands to wear. The Road Safety team also introduced road safety awareness when accessing local parks, to pupils when delivering their school sessions.

Playwork staff attended training sessions on inclusion and equality, road safety, promoting positive behaviour. Play workers also attended and completed the accredited Playing on the Range course delivered by Gloucestershire University.



KEY

- Completed Year One
- Completed Year Two
- Other Play Areas

Wirral Play Areas With 400m Buffers		drawn JAS	drawing number
		scale 1:30,000	date

WIRRAL
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Research Findings	Actions	Tasks		Play Strategy Implementation Plan	Date
Fear of being alone	Raise awareness so children keep themselves safe.	Design publicity leaflets/wrist bands link to Play Safe Campaign. Continue to run Play Ranger sessions	Identify groups of children at risk. Distribute information. Promote Campaign.	Recommendation 1 Traffic & Accessibility 1.2, 1.2 Health, Safety & Risk 1.15 Recommendation 2 Community Involvement 3.2, 3.3	June 2010
Groups of teenagers/Gangs	Address concerns around perceptions of older youths.	Identify relevant agencies to liaise with i.e. Youth Service Link into Peer Education.	Issue based work during play sessions. Involve teenagers in sessions in a positive way.	Recommendation 1 Localised Play Provision 1.9	April – May 2010
Traffic and Roads	Address concerns and raise awareness of Road Safety issues.	Work alongside the Road Safety Team to deliver awareness raising sessions. Inform Play Staff especially Play Rangers of the safer routes to play.	Distribute Road Safety material. Audit official routes to play areas in identified sessions.	Recommendation 1 Traffic & Accessibility 1.1, 1.2	April –Aug 2010
Bullies	Ensure children have practical advice and knowledge around bullying issues.	Educate staff around anti bullying issues.	Deliver advice and guidance to identified groups around bullying issues.	Recommendation 4 Play Training and Professional Development 4.12, 4.13	Sept 2010

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