

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 OCTOBER 2011

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2011</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DAVID ARMSTRONG</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Cllr ANN MCLACHLAN</b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Playscheme Programme and Youth & Play Service's playschemes in 2011.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 Committee is asked to note the report.

#### 3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The report is for information.

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Wirral Play Council receives a grant from Wirral Children and Young People's Department to provide open access summer playschemes through the school summer holidays throughout Wirral. Children and young people aged 6 to 14 are welcome to attend the playschemes. Wirral Play Council fundraises within the organisation and is successfully awarded other financial grants to support the summer playschemes. Wirral Play Council has been providing free open access play for children in Wirral since 1974.
- 4.2 The Wirral Play Council Executive Committee manages the summer playschemes with the day to day running organised by the Play Development Officer, supported by administration staff. This year the Play Development Officer was on secondment. Therefore, the managers of the Wirral Play Council Big Lottery funded Community Play Rangers and PlayPoint projects coordinated the summer playschemes.
- 4.3 Recruitment for the summer playworkers started early in the year with the posts advertised in February. This allowed adequate time to put workers through the Criminal Record Bureau process and complete other checks, such as references. The interviews occurred just after Easter and took the form of a group interview.

This group process provided the opportunity to observe how applicants interacted and communicated. Every year a number of playworkers return. This year there were 42 returning playworkers making up 55% of the overall total of playworkers recruited. The returning playworkers previous experience is valuable, as they can offer support and guidance to new play workers.

- 4.4 All new playworkers complete a programme of pre summer training that takes place at Wirral Metropolitan College and Wirral Play Council. During their time at the college they undertake a nationally recognised playwork qualification, Award in Playwork. In order for them to complete the course they must complete practical work and a reflective diary. Wirral Sure Start Support Team provides 80% funding for this playwork course. In-house training provided at Wirral Play Council equips the playworkers with working knowledge of legislation, policies and procedures plus practical play skills such as arts and craft, sports and games. Paediatric First Aid is also offered and this year 30 playworkers gained this qualification.
- 4.5 Each playscheme has a Lead Playworker who takes on more responsibility for paperwork etc and is paid a slightly higher hourly rate. This year additional funding was received from the Sure Start Support Team to meet the additional cost of wages for Lead Playworkers.
- 4.6 When arranging venues for the Summer Playschemes, areas that could not be covered by a summer playscheme were covered by a play session organised by the Community Play Rangers, Play Point and the full-time Play Service. Therefore, the majority of Wirral was covered by a local play session or playscheme. Last year 18 playschemes were run by Wirral Play Council, this year 20 were delivered within the same budget, details of all 20 summer playschemes can be found at Appendix 1. The number of registrations and attendances increased by 2.5% on 2010, registration and attendance statistics for 2011 can be found at Appendix 2. The schemes were promoted through the Let's Go magazine and on the Wirral Play Council website.
- 4.7 The highlight of the summer was Play Day, where over a thousand children, young people and parents enjoyed free play activities in Birkenhead Park, see Appendix 1. Play Day activities this year included a climbing wall, large water slide, tug of war and the 'Big Art Attack'.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The majority of Play activities involve children and young people as active participants in consultation processes.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

8.1 Young people from voluntary, community and faith organisations are directly involved in a number of play initiatives.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

9.1 This year 20 playschemes were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Borough Council. These included outreach schemes and provision for children with disabilities.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The summer holiday programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access. Playschemes endeavour to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities. Playschemes are open access and often work with those children and young people who are marginalised. Playschemes are provided free of charge for all children, with a high density of play provision in areas of identified need.

11.2 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are none.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are none.

### **REPORT AUTHORS: Steve Chan**

Deputy Head of Youth & Play Service

telephone: (0151 637 6370)

email: [stevechan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:stevechan@wirral.gov.uk)

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Playschemes by District and Play Day 2011

Appendix 2 - Attendance and Registration Statistics 2011

## Playschemes by District and Play Day 2011

### Wallasey District (Six Playschemes)

#### **Seacombe Community Centre – 45 Registrations**

The centre was again utilised as an important summer play scheme venue. Although the numbers of child registrations were lower this year, the number of daily attendances increased. These lower numbers were due to Seacombe Children's Centre also being available for a summer playscheme. The children who attended enjoyed a variety of craft activities and outdoor play. Playworkers organised a trip for children on the Mersey Ferry to the new Liverpool museum.

#### **Seacombe Children's Centre – 84 Registrations**

Seacombe Children's Centre was re-opened this year after building work last year meant it was unavailable as a venue. The children enjoyed active play sessions including a talent show, stress ball making and the local cage. On a number of occasions parents expressed how thankful they were for access to play provision in their area.

#### **Moreton Youth Club - 144 Registrations**

This centre is an excellent venue for a playscheme with a hall for sports and games and a good-sized room alongside the hall for quieter activities and crafts. There is a lack of outdoor space but the playworkers utilised Lingham Park on occasions throughout the summer. After a quiet year last year the playscheme picked up and doubled the amount of attendances.

#### **Vale Park – 71 Registrations**

After some confusion over the use of Vale House, it was decided late on that this playscheme would go ahead. Unfortunately by this time the advertisements for summer playschemes had already gone into the Let's Go magazine. The playscheme was able to operate from the downstairs room, with the pavilion particularly well used during the play sessions.

#### **Belvidere - 54 Registrations**

This playscheme was closed access and provided activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs. The playscheme was integrated with siblings encouraged to attend. There was a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proved invaluable. Overall the children enjoyed themselves and the total number of registered children rose by nearly a third. Parents have expressed an interest in this scheme running for more days over the summer, this will be reviewed next year. Playworkers organised a trip to Gulliver's World for the children.

#### **Wallasey YMCA - 50 Registrations**

Wallasey YMCA was a new addition to the summer playschemes this year although it had been used in the past. The children made a banner for Play Day and won the Banner Competition. They received a bouncy castle for the day and prizes for all children there. The play workers organised a trip to Camelot for the children in the last week.

## **Birkenhead District** (Four Play schemes)

### **Wirral Play Council Special Needs – 77 Registrations**

A successful play scheme ran catering for a large number of children with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities. This was a closed access play scheme running weekdays from 10.00am until 3.00pm. The play workers were fully trained to deal with every aspect of welfare for the individual children. The children enjoyed a wide variety of play experiences including arts and crafts activities, talent shows and group games. A few trips were organised to Chester Zoo. This play scheme runs throughout the year and continues to provide a much needed provision for children.

### **Hillside Primary School, Noctorum – 80 Registrations**

This is the second year the playscheme has run from Hillside Primary School. It was an outdoor playscheme where playworkers and children had access to a toilet and a room to store their equipment in the after school club. The school has a large field and playground with park benches to do activities on and a waterproof shelter. Activities that worked well were arts and crafts, face painting and football. This was a good venue over the summer as there are no local centres within the estate which can accommodate a playscheme. Trips were organised by the playworkers to visit New Brighton bowling and Laser Quest.

### **Tam O Shanter Urban Farm – 87 Registrations**

This popular playscheme was situated at Tam O Shanter Urban Farm. Visitors to the farm joined in with the daily arts and crafts activities and group games. There were a few regular children that attended this playscheme but the majority of attendances came from children on days out.

### **Prenton – 150 Registrations**

This playscheme ran from Prenton Primary School Playground. This area has an active residents association and before summer, representatives from Wirral Play Council, Prenton Primary School and the residents association held a meeting and decided the school playground would continue to be used, as there was not another suitable venue close by. Therefore, playworkers and children had access to a toilet and could store equipment overnight. Overall the amount of registered children tripled as did the total attendances and daily average, this was partly due to an assembly at the school that raised the profile of the playscheme. Due to inclement weather the playscheme utilised the community shop on a number of occasions, many children enjoyed this as more arts and crafts activities could take place in an indoor environment. The last week of the playscheme was held at the Prenton Dell Park, as there was no access to the school toilets. Playworkers also organised a trip bowling and to Laser Quest in New Brighton.

## **West Wirral District** (Six Playschemes)

### **Woodchurch Community Centre– 92 Registrations**

This playscheme began quietly, with only a few children registering. However, during the four weeks it became increasingly popular with the local community. The children enjoyed a party on the last day and the cage and play area outside was well used. Playworkers organised a trip for the children to Camelot, this was part funded by money donated to Woodchurch Playscheme.

### **Heswall Scout Hut – 74 Registrations**

This is the third venue that has been utilised in Heswall over recent years. The venue proved to be a good site for a playscheme and hopefully will be returned to next year. There is a hall that caters for large games, a small room for arts and crafts and a small

outdoor area for outdoor games. The playworkers also used the local park on a few occasions to allow the uniformed groups to access their equipment in the back of the hall for their scout trips.

### **Irby Methodist Church Hall – 148 Registrations**

This is a popular playscheme that benefits from the support of the Methodist Church. Children attended regularly and enjoyed playing in the newly refurbished Irby Park play area. During the final week the Playscheme had a great day out at Manley Mere Adventure Trail. Children registered on this scheme rose by a third on last year.

### **Coronation Park, Greasby – 61 Registrations**

This year the playscheme had low numbers of registrations due to work being carried out in Greasby Community Centre. Greasby Pavilion was sought as an alternative venue but this was unavailable due to fire a few months previous. Despite being outside for the whole summer the number of registrations has risen slightly from last year. An events shelter was used as a shield from the rain as the weather was unpredictable.

### **West Kirby Beach – 64 Registrations**

Westbourne Hall in West Kirby was unavailable this year due to building work being carried out. Therefore West Kirby Beach was used. Activities included sand sculptures, sand castle making, kite making, sports and games. When the weather was good this playscheme flourished. However, in bad weather attendances were poor. On some occasions the tide was due in so Ashton Park was used. It is hoped the playscheme can return to Westbourne Hall next year. Playworkers arranged for children to go on trips to New Brighton Bowling and Laser Quest.

### **Overton Community Centre – 64 Registrations**

Due to a new nursery in this centre only the hall was available for use. This did not cause a problem as it was managed efficiently. The playworkers used the available area effectively and managed the door to allow children to enter and exit when required. The outdoor area provided an excellent alternative as it has a large field and wooded area where children could explore and use their imagination. Playworkers organised a trip to Camelot for the children.

### **South Wirral District – (Four Playschemes)**

#### **Eastham Youth Hub – 114 Registrations**

The registration numbers at Eastham playscheme increased in 2010 and have increased again in 2011. The venue is ideal for sports and games, quiet activities and has a great outdoor area. The team of playworkers worked well together to deliver a comprehensive range of activities. The children were keen to participate in all the activities on offer and particularly enjoyed football, making friendship bracelets and playing parachute games. This play scheme catered for a number of children with additional needs. The playworkers ensured all activities were inclusive and encouraged all children to participate in available activities. The playworkers organised a summer trip to take children to Manley Mere for the day.

#### **Bebington Youth Club, New Ferry – 105 Registrations**

This was a new venue this year. However, the PlayPoint project had been using the youth club for last two years and had found it to be a successful play venue. The registration figures were down from the previous year. This is believed to be because of the new venue but it is hoped the numbers will increase next year as people become more familiar

with the venue. On the evening of the first day of the playscheme the youth club was broken into and expensive club equipment stolen. Fortunately, the playscheme was still able to proceed in the outdoor space and towards the end of the second day the playscheme was able to use the main sports hall. The children, playworkers and centre staff worked well together in this difficult time, culminating in a successful playscheme. The playworkers organised a trip to Manley Mere for the children in their final week.

### **Bromborough Social Centre – 74 Registrations**

This is a new venue in Bromborough. The children who attended this playscheme were creative and brought things in from home. The playworkers were inventive with the equipment and utilised the piano with a talent show and singing. Parents were complementary about the playscheme and the staff, stating they appreciated and welcomed free supervised play provision in the area. The numbers of registrations for this playscheme were quite high and if this venue is still available next year then this is highly likely to increase. Playworkers organised a trip bowling for the children and set up a picnic in the centre afterwards.

### **Higher Bebington Christ Church Hall - 334 Registrations**

This playscheme was popular again this year and had over 330 children registered. It was a new building as the old centre had been knocked down and a new community centre had been built in its place. The outdoor space continued to be the main attraction at this site and many of the children spent hours den building and playing amongst the trees and bushes. The playworkers encouraged lots of different activities and this playscheme was always vibrant and busy.

## **PLAY DAY**

This year Play Day took place in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August organised in conjunction with Wirral Council, Youth & Play Service. The day required a good deal of preparation and planning.

All the full time and summer playschemes were on site by 11.00am. The Mayoress of Wirral, Councillor Moira McLaughlin and her consort Ms Anna McLaughlin, were shown around the event by the Vice Chairperson of the Wirral Play Council. The Mayoress then officially opened Play Day with the traditional banner competition. Children had produced a number of excellent banners with Wallasey YMCA winning the competition, followed closely by Bebington Youth Club.

During the rest of the day children were able to access the many activities on offer. The activities included slacklining, the climbing wall, the big art attack, inflatable bouncy castle, drum circle, straw bales, talent show tent, art and craft, and the new addition this year, a water slide. There were also smaller activities to take part in such as the spider's web challenge and games similar to the television show "The Cube". The Police and Fire Service provided some popular activities including experiencing the 'holding cell' in the police van and allowing the children to spray water over other children using the fire hose.

It had been noted from the previous year's Play Day that the general public turned up for the event later in the day. Therefore, in order to accommodate the public it was decided to run Play Day until 4pm instead of 3pm. The day was a great success and the weather was fantastic. Children and their families thoroughly enjoyed the day with over 1,000 attending. A number of other partner agencies helped out and supported the day

including, Birkenhead Park Rangers, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire Service and Sports Development Workers.

## Attendance and Registration Statistics 2011

## Summer Holiday Playschemes:

Scheme	Days	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance	Daily Average
Bromborough	20	74	12	574	29
Eastham	20	114	28	1082	59
Greasby	20	61	15	225	11
Heswall	20	74	18	599	30
Higher Bebington	20	334	96	2088	104
Irby	20	148	43	1098	55
Moreton	20	144	45	1049	52
New Ferry	20	105	30	926	46
Noctorum	20	80	21	505	25
Overchurch	20	64	20	977	49
Prenton	20	150	24	1138	57
Seacombe Children's Centre	20	84	19	738	37
Seacombe Community Centre	20	45	13	683	34
Tam O Shanter	20	87	N/A	257	13
Vale Park	20	71	16	458	23
West Kirby Beach	20	64	23	279	14
Woodchurch	20	92	30	703	35
Wallasey YMCA	20	50	18	350	18
Belvidere Centre	12	54	10	213	18
Wirral Play Council Special Needs	16	77		508	32
Total	<b>388</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>14450</b>	

**Open Access Full-time Playschemes:**

<b>Centre</b>	<b>No Of Children Registered</b>	<b>Under 8's Registered</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
Beechwood	175	32	1236
Charing Cross	165	44	786
Gautby Road	97	35	1060
Leasowe Adventure Playground	152	39	1315
Livingstone Street	92	41	1068
Woodchurch (summer reg. only)	92	30	703
<b>Total</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>6168</b>