

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**28 NOVEMBER 2012**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2012</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>JULIA HASSALL</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Cllr TONY SMITH</b>
<b>HOLDER:</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 Play scheme Programme and the Universal Youth Support Service's play schemes in 2012 (formerly known as Youth & Play Service). The Committee is asked to note this report.

### **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 play schemes through the school summer holidays throughout Wirral. Children and young people aged 6 to 14 are welcome to attend the play schemes. Wirral Play Council fundraises within the organisation and is successfully awarded other financial grants to support the summer play schemes. 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, due to a vacancy for the Play Development Officer, the managers of the Wirral Play Council Big Lottery funded Community Play Rangers and PlayPoint projects coordinated the summer play schemes.

4.3 Recruitment for the summer playworkers started early in the year with the posts advertised in February and March. 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, as well individual interviews for each candidate. This group process gave the opportunity to observe how applicants interacted and communicated.

Every year a number of play workers return. This year there were 37 returning play workers making up 49% of the overall total of play workers recruited. The returning play workers previous experience is valuable, as they can offer support and guidance to new play workers.

- 4.4 All new play workers 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 undertook a nationally recognised play work qualification, Take 5 for Play, which was delivered in-house, reducing the cost of training. In order for them to complete the course they completed practical work and a reflective diary, supporting their play work practice. Further In-house training provided at Wirral Play Council equipped the play workers with working knowledge of legislation, policies and procedures plus practical play skills such as arts and craft, sports and games. Paediatric First Aid was also offered and 12 play workers gained this qualification, as it is a requirement that each play scheme has at least one qualified First Aider.
- 4.5 Each play scheme has a Lead Play worker 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 Play workers,
- 4.6 When arranging venues for the Summer Play schemes, areas that could not be covered by a summer play scheme 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 play scheme. This year 21 play schemes were delivered by the Play Council, details of all summer play schemes can be found at Appendix 1. This year the number of unique individuals registrations increased by 8% to 2,131 (from 1,961 last year), see Appendix 2. The schemes were promoted through the Let's Go magazine, the Wirral Play Council website and leaflets.
- 4.7 The highlight of the summer was Play Day, where over a two thousand children, young people and parents enjoyed free play activities in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, see Appendix 1. Play Day activities this year included straw bales, water slide, Spider Mountain, Body Zorb balls 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 21 play schemes 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. Play schemes endeavour to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities. Play schemes are open access and often work with those children and young people who are marginalised. Play schemes 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.

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### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Play schemes by District and Play Day 2012

Appendix 2 - Attendance and Registration Statistics 2012

## Playschemes by District and Play Day 2012

### **Wallasey District – Five Play schemes**

#### **Seacombe Community Centre – 50 Registrations**

Seacombe Community Centre has now moved through the Asset Transfer and consequently is managed by the community. The registrations and attendances improved slightly over the previous year and it is hoped this trend will continue as the children and local community benefit greatly from this resource. Overall this was a successful playscheme attended by local children who enjoyed a variety of crafts activities and outdoor play, including jewellery making, group games, dressing up and free play activities.

#### **Seacombe Children's Centre – 70 Registrations**

Seacombe Children's Centre were allocated 5 playworkers including a lead playworker this year, due to the layout of the building. The play staff ensured the smooth running of the play scheme and the children enjoyed active play sessions including a talent show, jewellery making, friendship bands, salt dough; with the local sports cage being the favourite activity for the sports and games. Unfortunately, there was an accident on Play Day when a child fell and broke her leg. The staff were commended by the parents for their prompt action and the care their child received.

#### **Moreton Youth Club - 150 Registrations**

This centre is a good venue for a play scheme with a sports 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 play workers utilised Lingham Park on occasions throughout the summer. Play scheme attendances continue to increase in the Moreton area. This year the children enjoyed Dodge Ball, bingo, icing cakes and an extensive range of arts and crafts and sports activities.

#### **Belvidere – 68 Registrations**

This play scheme is closed access and provides activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs. The play scheme is integrated and siblings are encouraged to attend. The facility is ideal for play scheme activities and has a large outdoor space. There is a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proves invaluable. The total number of registered children increased again this year. Parents have expressed an interest in the scheme running for more days during the summer, this will be reviewed for 2013. The play workers and children went on a trip to Green Acres Farm during the third week of summer and enjoyed a tractor ride and feeding the animals.

#### **Wallasey Scout Hut - 45 Registrations**

Wallasey Scout Hut was a new venue this year and proved successful with a large indoor room and a large outdoor space. The play staff worked well together and the numbers of children attending increased during the length of the play scheme. They enjoyed salt dough, participating in art and craft activities, as well as parachute games, football, cricket and rounders. The parents also helped with the end of summer party and have asked that the play scheme returns next year.

## **Birkenhead – Six Play schemes**

### **Wirral Play Council Special Needs - 80 Registrations**

A successful play scheme ran from Wirral Play Development Centre catering for a large number of children with a wide range of complex disabilities. This is a closed access play scheme running weekdays from 10.00am until 3.00pm. The play workers are fully trained and 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. Trips were organised to Chester Zoo and Play Day. This play scheme also runs throughout the year and continues to provide a much needed provision for the Wirral.

### **Ridgeway Community Centre Noctorum – 90 Registrations**

Due to venue issues, this scheme had not run in Noctorum for a couple of summers. However, a newly refurbished Ridgeway Community Centre enabled the play scheme to operate. The building is a good venue with a large hall, recreation room and fully equipped kitchen area. Due to the refurbishments ball games could not be played in the large hall, but the children enjoyed table tennis, badminton, pool and a range other games, including parachute games and arts activities. The children and staff could also use the large school sports hall every Friday. This proved very popular as they could play a variety of team sports, as the scheme progressed, they were allowed to utilise this facility more frequently.

### **Tam O Shanter Urban Farm – 140 Registrations**

A popular play scheme situated at Tam O Shanter Urban Farm. Visitors to the farm joined in with the daily arts and crafts activities and group games. There are a few regular children that attended this play scheme but the majority of attendances came from children on days out. This year saw a large increase in registrations and attendances which is encouraging as the staff at Tam O Shanter expressed the need to continue to run the summer play scheme and have contributed towards the staffing costs. Next year, opening times will be reviewed as afternoon sessions were more popular than mornings.

### **Prenton Rugby Club – 84 Registrations**

Prenton Rugby Club was a new and welcomed addition this year. Last year Prenton Primary School Playground was used, but with inclement weather, this was not an ideal venue. The children enjoyed making friendship bracelets and co-operative group games and the golf club let the children practice their tee shots on the golf range.

### **Woodchurch Community Centre– 69 Registrations**

This play scheme began quietly as it has done previously, with only a few children registering. However, during the four weeks it became well used by the local community. The children enjoyed the Olympic themed days and the celebratory party on the last day. The sports cage and play area outside was again well used. The parents were supportive and recognised the effort and standard of the work the staff put in and expressed the need for a summer play scheme in this area.

### **Birkenhead Park St Mary's Cricket Club- 45 Registrations**

This was a new venue with good facilities and was regularly attended by local children including some with additional needs. The staff facilitated a range of activities and made full use of the open green spaces around the venue. There were 2 boys aged 12 who attended the scheme, who had never played cricket before, but the lead play worker noted they had natural ability. The following week they were selected for a match playing for St. Mary's under thirteen team, they continued to play throughout the summer.

## **West Wirral – Five Play schemes**

### **Heswall Hall – 98 Registrations**

This was a good building with much space in the main hall. On occasion the scheme had to move to smaller rooms when the hall was being used, but this was well managed and caused no disruptions. There was also a good outside area available to be utilised by the children. Children enjoyed the talent show, fun group games, outside football plus various other sports. The registrations at this new venue have improved from 74 at last year's venue.

### **Irby Methodist Church Hall – 112 Registrations**

This play scheme continues to be a popular venue with a large hall for sports and games plus a smaller room for arts and crafts. This play scheme benefits greatly from the support of the Methodist church. The children also have access to the Play Builder improved play area which is situated across the road. The play workers facilitated activities including: paper dress making, salt dough, friendship bracelets, and a good deal of sports and games.

### **Coronation Park, Greasby – 56 Registrations**

This year the play scheme was due to run from the Pavilion in the park, however, delayed work on improving the toilets meant the playscheme had to operate outside. Surprisingly, this did not affect the attendance figures as they had increased from last year. The staff made creative use of shelters and tents were also provided for wet weather cover.

Essentially the scheme ran similarly to an outreach play session and parents were informed of this change. The children enjoyed activities such as den building, creative arts and crafts, bracelet making and outdoor sports and games, which were all determined by the adverse weather conditions.

### **West Kirby – 38 Registrations**

This year the play scheme was based in a field behind the West Kirby Children's Centre. Due again to adverse weather conditions, the numbers registering on this play scheme were reduced but the total attendances increased, indicating that the same children were happy to return regularly. The weather also affected the shelters, which, due to high winds causing damage, resulted in an alternative shelters being used, which could only cater for small groups of children. The children enjoyed zorbing, football, rounders, card games, and group games such as wink murder.

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

Overchurch continues to be a good venue for the summer play scheme. The children enjoyed activities such as cheerleading and made their own pom poms which they used to cheer on the teams playing football, basketball, volleyball, and dodge ball. The staff organised creative art and craft activities which the children actively engaged in.

Due to the nursery, operating from the centre only the hall was available for use. However, this did not cause any issues as it was managed efficiently by the play staff. The play workers used the available area effectively and managed the door to allow children to enter and exit when required. This was due to the closed-door policy of the nursery for security and safeguarding purposes. The outdoor area also provided a good alternative as it had a large field and wooded area where children could explore and use their imagination, den building proved popular in this area.

## **South Wirral – Five Play schemes**

### **Eastham Youth Hub – 115 Registrations**

Overall, the registration numbers at the Eastham play scheme have increased since 2011. The venue is ideal for sports and games, quiet activities and has a good outdoor area. The team of play workers worked well together to deliver a comprehensive range of activities. The children were keen to get involved with all the activities on offer and enjoyed football, friendship bracelets and playing as a group with the parachute. The play scheme catered for a number of children with additional needs and the play workers ensured all activities were inclusive and encouraged all children to participate in the play sessions. All the children said they enjoyed Play Day and in particular the Spider Mountain climbing wall.

### **Bebington Youth Club, New Ferry – 68 Registrations**

This was the second year at the Bebington Youth Club and the registrations were slightly lower this year. However, due to re-decorating, the scheme only ran for three weeks, resulting in the final week moving to nearby Courtney Park. The combined registrations of both schemes reflected an increase on last year's figures. This venue has a hall with a soft foam floor ideal for all sorts of sports and large games. It also has a pool games area and a section for arts and craft and a tuck shop. The children enjoyed parachute games, dodge ball, arts and craft, including making their own stress balls. The staff worked well together and the young volunteers were helpful and enthusiastic.

### **Courtney Park, New Ferry – 42 Registrations**

Courtney Park Playscheme is in close proximity to Bebington Youth Club so it was ideally located to finish the summer play provision in New Ferry. Although it was only open for one week, new children registered and attended the play scheme illustrating a need for provision in this area. This venue has a small indoor space that facilitated arts and craft along with board games and imaginative play and a celebratory party was planned by children and staff at the end of summer. The outside play area was good for sports and large games.

### **Bromborough Social Centre – 81 Registrations**

The play scheme was located in the social centre which was in need of some improvements. However, it was an accessible venue for local children and the community. The children who attended this playscheme were creative and brought things from home. The play workers were inventive with the equipment and utilised the space available well. There was a nearby field utilised by the play workers for sports and games, weather permitting. The parents who dropped children off at the play scheme were complementary about the play scheme and the staff. They were also thankful that play provision had been allocated to the Bromborough area. The numbers of registrations and attendance increased from the previous year showing the need for a play scheme in the area.

### **Higher Bebington Christ Church Hall – 400 Registrations**

This playscheme was popular again this year and had 400 registered children. This was the first year that the scheme had operated from the newly opened building. Initially, it was thought that the layout would be difficult to manage with a closed-door policy but the play workers managed the situation and most children arrived at the beginning of a session and left at the finish of the session alleviating any potential problems. The outdoor space continued to be the main attraction at the site and many of the children spent hours den building and playing amongst the trees and bushes within the boundary of the site. The play workers encouraged lots of different activities including, arts and craft, parachute games, football and new games. This play scheme was always vibrant and well used by

local children. Two days a week the hall was not available and the park was utilised during those periods with a tent was provided for shelter.

### **Mobile Play Team – various parks and outdoor spaces – 170 Registrations**

The mobile team consisted of a lead play worker and two play workers. The areas covered by the mobile team were:

- Monday: Victoria Park, Rock Ferry & Port Causeway Play Area, Bromborough.
- Tuesday: Vale Park Play Area, New Brighton & Harrison Park, New Brighton.
- Wednesday: Hoylake Beach, Hoylake & Meols Park, Meols.
- Thursday: Thornton Hough Village Green, & Spital Field, Spital.
- Friday: Central Park, Liscard, & Duck Pond Lane Park, Prenton.

The play session ran daily from 12pm until 2pm with a second session starting at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. They provided more children with access to free open access play activities in many geographical areas across Wirral. The activities included, slack lining, football, cricket, volley ball, den building and big group games. Many of the children enjoyed the sessions so much they followed the mobile team to their next session. This additional mobile team helped to fill in any gaps in provision and over 170 children registered for the free play sessions. There were many more children who attended these sessions but it is difficult to register every child due to the sessions being in a park environment.

### **Play Day – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, Birkenhead Park**

This years Play Day took place in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 8th August. The day requires preparation and planning months prior to the event. This year a large marquee was purchased which helped to reduce the overall costs of the event. However, it meant that play staff had to erect it well before the start of the event. All the full time and summer play schemes are on site by 11.00am when the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress were shown around the event and the Deputy Mayor officially opened Play Day. The traditional banner competition started the day, with this year's winners being West Kirby. During the rest of the day children could access many of the free activities on offer. Play Day activities included slack lining, the big art attack, inflatable bouncy castle, drum circle, the straw bales experience, talent show tent, art and crafts, water slide. New additions this year were Spider Mountain and the Body Zorb balls, which both proved very popular. Large queues formed throughout the day and were managed well by all the play staff. The day was a great success and, surprisingly for this summer, the weather was fantastic. Children and their families thoroughly enjoyed the day with over 2,000 attending. Other agencies who helped out on the day includied the Play For All play workers, Wirral Council employees, Birkenhead Park Rangers, Police, Fire Brigade, Youth Workers, Surestart workers and St. John's Ambulance.

**APPENDIX 2****Summer Holiday Play Schemes Attendance and Registration Statistics 2012**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>No Of Children Registered</b>	<b>Under 8's Registered</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Daily Average</b>
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
Mobile Play Team	20	170	83	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>2131</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>14450</b>	

**Open Access Full-time Play schemes:**

<b>Centre</b>	<b>No Of Children Registered</b>	<b>Under 8's Registered</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
Beechwood	120	34	3401
Charing Cross	41	83	2140
Gautby Road	60	32	4170
Leasowe Adventure Playground	104	56	8206
Livingstone Street	44	65	2196
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>20113</b>