

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 October 2013

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2013
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	JULIA HASSALL
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr TONY SMITH
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Play Scheme Programme and the Youth Support Service's play schemes in 2013 (formerly known as the 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 has been providing free open access play for children in Wirral since 1974 and receives a grant from Wirral Children and Young People's Department to provide summer play schemes in 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 to provide additional support for the summer play schemes in order to supplement funds.

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.

4.3 Recruitment for the summer playworkers started early in the year with posts advertised in February and March. This allowed adequate time to put workers through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) process and complete other checks, such as references. The interviews occurred during the Easter break and took the form of individual interviews for each candidate. Every year a number of play workers return. This year, there were 30 returning play workers making up 43% of the overall total of play workers recruited. The returning play workers

previous experience is invaluable, as they can offer support and guidance to new play workers.

- 4.4 All new play workers completed a programme of pre summer training that takes place at Wirral Play Council. During their time at the Play Council they undertake a nationally recognised play work qualification, Take 5 for Play, which is delivered in-house, reducing the cost of training. In order, for them to complete the course they must complete practical work and a reflective diary, to support their play work practice. Further in-house training provided at Wirral Play Council equips 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 21 play workers gained this qualification, as it is a requirement that each play scheme has at least one qualified First Aider.
- 4.5 This year unfortunately Sure Start were unable to support the wages of the lead playworkers, with this in mind during the training, Playworkers were encouraged to share tasks and support each other.
- 4.6 This year 21 play schemes were run by Wirral Play Council, throughout Wirral, and a number of new venues were utilised, details of all summer play schemes can be found in Appendix 1. The schemes were promoted through local libraries, schools, the Wirral Play Council website and leaflets distributed to each Councillor.
- 4.7 The highlight of the summer was Play Day, where over three thousand children, young people and parents enjoyed free play activities in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 7th August, (see Appendix 1). Play Day activities this year included straw bales, water slide, climbing wall, talent show, inflatables, body zorb balls, the 'Big Art Attack' and a games zone including soft play construction.

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 the 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 provision for children with disabilities.
- 9.2. A large percentage of the budget is allocated to playworkers staffing costs and this figure is increasing each year to keep in line with the minimum wage set by the

government. The remaining grant is spent on play equipment, transport, administration and providing the Play Day.

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 2013

Appendix 2 - Attendance and Registration Statistics 2013

Playschemes by District and Play Day 2013

Wallasey District – Four Play schemes

Seacombe Children's Centre – 85 Registrations

Seacombe Children's Centre were allocated 4 playworkers, 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, and salt dough with the local sports cage being utilised for sports and games. The building is a focus within the community and the play scheme provides much needed provision in the area. Parents expressed how thankful they were that a summer play scheme was provided in Seacombe.

Moreton Youth Club - 111 Registrations

The centre is a good venue for a play scheme with a sports hall for sports and games including 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 continued to show the need for this facility in the Moreton area. The children enjoyed dodge ball, bingo, cake making and an extensive range of arts 'n' crafts and sports activities.

Belvidere Youth Centre – 86 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. Overall the children enjoyed themselves and the opportunity to socially interact with their peers. The total number of registered children increased again this year. In 2012 parents expressed an interest in the scheme running for more days during the summer, as a result the play scheme ran for 4 days a week over 3 weeks. The playworkers, children and parents went on a trip to Apple Jacks Farm in Warrington during the third week of summer and participated in a fun tractor ride and feeding the animals.

Wallasey Village, St Nicholas Church Hall - 72 Registrations

The Scout Hut was not available this year, but the Play Council were pleased with the offer of a superb venue, provided free of charge. This venue had 2 long halls and a small outdoor area that the children could use. The Play workers worked well with the children and forged relationships with them and their parents. The children participated in arts and crafts, including bracelet making, collage, games and sports, along with dance and drama. This was a very successful venture, supported and encouraged by the committee and the children and parents expressed the wish for scheme to return next year.

Birkenhead – Six Play schemes

Wirral Play Council Special Needs - 69 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 was 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 the Vue Cinema, Ten Pin Bowling in New Brighton, swimming at Guinea Gap baths and Play Day. This free play scheme runs throughout the year and continues to provide a much needed provision for Wirral.

Ridgeway Community Centre Noctorum – 83 Registrations

The Play Council were pleased to be invited back to this venue as in 2012, it proved to be successful. The building has a large hall, recreation room and fully equipped kitchen area. Due to the refurbishment, ball games could not be played in the large hall, but the children enjoyed table tennis, badminton, pool and a range of games including parachute games and arts and craft activities. The children and staff could also use the large school sports hall every Friday. This proved popular as they could play a variety of team sports and ball games, as the scheme progressed they were allowed to utilise this facility more frequently, which was popular the children.

Tam O Shanter Urban Farm – 183 Registrations

A popular play scheme situated at Tam O Shanter Urban Farm. This year, opening times were reviewed and afternoon sessions ran from 1.30 – 3.30 and this proved popular. Unfortunately, the scheme was unable to use the usual building, but were made welcome in a gazebo situated just outside the café, which worked well, particularly with the excellent weather. Visitors to the farm joined in with the daily arts and crafts activities and group games. This year, saw an increase in the registration and attendance figures which is encouraging as the Tam O' Shanter staff, expressed the need to continue to running the scheme next year.

Prenton Rugby Club – 47 Registrations

Prenton Rugby Club was a new and welcomed addition last year, as Prenton has always been a difficult place to find a suitable venue to operate a play scheme. The children made friendship bracelets and played co-operative group games and sports. The golf club let the children practice their tee shots on the golf range when it was quiet.

Woodchurch Methodist Church - 123 Registrations

This was a new venue this year, in an ideal location, right in the heart of the Woodchurch Estate, which was reflected in the increased number of individual children attending the play sessions. They participated in new games including parachute, dodge ball, prisoner along with sports, arts and crafts, drama, dressing up, face painting and talent shows. The play staff fully utilised the use of two large rooms and the children enjoyed the split activities available to them. The parents expressed their thanks and support for the high standard of work and they strongly expressed the need for a summer play scheme next year.

Birkenhead Park St Mary's Cricket Club- 45 Registrations

The venue is situated in Birkenhead Park and was regularly attended by local children including some with additional needs. The staff facilitated a range of activities including the friendship bracelets, art and crafts, Games, parachute games, skipping and sports. They made full use of the open green spaces around the venue. The staff were very welcoming and worked well together, to facilitate fun and inspiring play opportunities for the children to enjoy.

West Wirral – Five Play schemes

Heswall Hall – 48 Registrations

This is the second consecutive year the Play Council have been able to use this venue in Heswall. Heswall Hall is great building with lots of space in the main hall, occasionally they had to move to smaller rooms, but this was well managed and caused no disruptions to the scheme. The availability of an outside area was utilised by the users. Children enjoyed the talent show, fun group games, arts and crafts, face painting, drama and dance, football plus various other sports. Although registrations were low the overall attendance was high, showing the children returned throughout the summer.

Irby Methodist Church Hall – 48 Registrations

This play scheme continued 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 area built with funds from the Play Builder programme, which is situated across the road. The play workers facilitated activities including: paper dress making, salt dough, junk modelling, friendship bracelets, face painting, dance, drama, sports and games.

Coronation Park, Greasby 48 – Registrations

This year the play scheme operated from the Greasby Pavilion, which being situated in the park provided immediate access to a large outdoor area. A core group of children regularly used the scheme and enjoyed the activities, such as den building, creative arts and crafts, bracelet making and outdoor sports and games

West Kirby – 40 Registrations

This year the scheme was unable to use Westbourne Hall, consequently the play scheme was based at West Kirby Youth Hub, in the Concourse. This was a well resourced facility with lots of indoor space which was utilised for dance, drama, active sports, creative arts and crafts, parachute games and talent shows, a popular scheme with over half of the children registered returning daily.

Overton Community Shop – 26 Registrations

Due to the needs of the full time nursery based at the Overton Community Centre, the scheme was transferred to the Community Shop. Although, it had been refurbished the restrictive space resulted in lower registration figures. The staff did use the indoor space to the best of their ability but problems of damp in the back room inhibited the space available to them. However, the children participated in art and crafts including friendship bands, collage, paper mache models, face painting, dressing up and Zumba. The Playworkers did utilise the outdoor area to play football, rounders, cricket and den building.

South Wirral – Five Play schemes

Eastham Youth Hub – 148 Registrations

Registration numbers at the Eastham play scheme have increased from 115 in 2012 to 148 in 2013. The venue is ideal for sports and games, quiet activities and has a great outdoor area where the children can engage in free play. 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 creative arts and craft, football, cricket, rounders, friendship bracelets and playing group parachute games. 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.

Bebington Youth Club, New Ferry – 71 Registrations

This is the third year at the Bebington Youth Club and registrations have increased from last year. This venue has a great 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 along with a separate room to relax and play on computer games. The children enjoyed parachute games, dodge ball, arts and craft including making their own dream catchers and friendship bracelets. The staff worked well together and the young volunteers were very helpful and enthusiastic. All the schemes located in Youth Service venues were well managed and attended.

Courtney Park, New Ferry – 64 Registrations

Courtney Park Playscheme was organised by a group of volunteers and the number of children registered and attending the play scheme increased this year illustrating the need for provision in the area. This venue has a small indoor space where play workers facilitated arts and craft along with board games and imaginative play and a celebratory party at the end of summer. The outside play area which is a large enclosed safe space was used for sports and large games. The volunteers from Courtney Park remarked on the number of positive comments from local parents, who in appreciation, hand delivered a thank you card to the Wirral Play Council.

Bromborough Rake Park – 47 Registrations

Due to safety reasons Bromborough Social Centre could not be used. However, in consultation with children and parents the Play Council were able to run sessions at Bromborough Rake recreation ground, utilising a gazebo shelter. The children enjoyed a wide variety of activities including arts and crafts, football, rounders, cricket, tennis and parachute games. The parents expressed their thanks for listening and responding appropriately to their needs and it is hoped to have a suitable indoor venue next year.

Higher Bebington Sports College 145 Registration

Unfortunately, due to new management Christ Church Hall was not available for a summer play Scheme, so Bebington High Sports College was secured as the new venue. The scheme was located in the large canteen hall and had access to the outside area. The children enjoyed a full and varied program of activities including arts and crafts, interactive games, board games, hamma beads, football, cricket, baseball, basketball, relay races, and parachute games. Although the registration numbers were lower than the previous venue, the number of children attending daily was high. Parents wrote positive comments

in their evaluation of the scheme and the staff were complemented on their enthusiasm and skills. The sports college will be available as a play scheme venue in 2014.

Play Day – Wednesday 7th August, Birkenhead Park

This year, Play Day took place in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 7th August. The day requires months of preparation and planning prior to the event and an early start with a late finish for the staff who always show their dedication and enjoyment of this fantastic event. The Mayor of Wirral Councillor Dave Mitchell and Mayoress Mrs Sue Mitchell, were shown around the event by Eileen Stacey, Vice Chair person of the Wirral Play Council. The Mayor officially opened Play Day by judging this years canvas pictures, based on the theme, "Places we Play". The pictures were produced by children from each playscheme and were displayed for the public, in the Pavilion gallery for the whole week.

This year, saw a few organisational changes. Due to financial constraints, it was decided not to supply transport to the event. All the children and parents were given notice in advance that the play schemes would be closed on the Wednesday 7th August and they were invited to bring along their children and enjoy the Play Day together. This enabled more staff to run extra activities and cope with the thousands of people who attended the event. Extra toilets and refuge bins were supplied to cope with the additional demand.

During the day, children could access all the free activities on offer. Play Day activities included slack lining, the big art attack, inflatable castles, drum circle, the straw bales experience, talent show tent, art and crafts, face painting, water slide, climbing wall, body zorbs and new to this year, was the large soft play construction in the game zone. Large queues formed throughout the day and were managed well by the staff. The day was a great success and the weather was fantastic, with 3,000 Children and their families in attendance. Other agencies who provided activities and supported Play Day included Youth Service, Park Rangers, Police, Fire Brigade, Sports Development Staff, Anti Social Behaviour Team, Public Health, Surestart and St. John's Ambulance.

A small sample of comments from families on the day:

"Congratulations to Wirral Play Council and Wirral Borough Council on a fantastic day, we enjoyed it immensely and can't wait for next year".

"We look forward to this every year and plan our holidays around the date".

"Well done! Why can't we have more days like this? It's fantastic"

Attendance and Registration Statistics 2013

Summer Holiday Play Schemes

Scheme	Days	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance	Daily Average
Bromborough	14	47	8	240	17
Eastham	19	148	38	1557	82
Greasby	19	48	18	453	24
Heswall	19	48	8	530	28
Higher Bebington	19	145	25	1202	63
Irby	19	48	10	435	23
Moreton	19	111	18	821	43
New Ferry	19	71	9	523	28
Noctorum	19	83	29	700	37
Overchurch	19	26	9	307	16
Prenton	19	47	7	454	24
Seacombe Children's Centre	19	85	16	541	28
Courtney Park	19	64	33	537	28
Tam O Shanter	19	183	N/A	300	16
Birkenhead Park	19	63	14	449	24
West Kirby	19	40	10	418	22
Woodchurch	19	123	24	901	45
Wallasey Village	19	72	33	646	32
Belvidere Centre	12	86	17	806	33
Wirral Play Council Special Needs	16	69	N/A	436	27
Guinea Gap Leisure Centre	5	2	2	6	1
Total	370	1609	328	11925	631

Open Access Full-time Play schemes

Centre	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance
Beechwood	156	29	2999
Charing Cross	99	42	1285
Gautby Road	119	45	3824
Leasowe Adventure Playground	203	70	6781
Livingstone Street	58	33	666
Youth Outreach Team	94		
Total	729	219	15555