

SUBJECT:	SUMMER PLAY PROVISION 2016
MEETING:	Children and Young Peoples Select Committee
DATE:	8th December 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update members on the revised model for staffed play provision implemented for the 2016 summer period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 that members receive this update on the summer play provisions that took place during the summer period this year;
- 2.2 that members note the arrangements put in place to ensure compliance with with the Council's safeguarding policies and practices.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Towards the end of 2015, members received a report on a number of play related issues, including proposed changes to staffed play provision for 2016 and the timetable for producing the Play Sufficiency Audit and Action Plan for 2016/17.
- 3.2 In previous years the Council had provided summer holiday playschemes at the four leisure centres plus a "satellite" provision at the Bulwark Community Centre, the latter provision having been run on behalf of and paid for by Chepstow Town Council. The playschemes were effectively a form of childcare registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) and provided staffed play provision for four weeks of the summer holidays for children between 5 and 11 years of age.
- 3.3 The proposal when this matter was last scrutinised by this Committee was to move to a model of play provision in summer 2016 that contained two main components – sports camps held at the four leisure centres and open access play sessions held in a number of community venues across the county. Delivery of open access play was dependent on the outcome of consultations with partners, most notably Town and Community Councils, due to the reliance on their funding to enable these schemes to take place. The discussions with the Town and Community Councils were successful and they all agreed to maintain (and in some cases increase) their contributions at the existing levels.
- 3.4 The sports camps (the Monmouthshire Games) were run by Leisure Services as self financing schemes on a daily basis over a five week period (25th July to 26th August) from

9.00am to 3.00pm. These did not have to be registered with the CSSIW, as they were regarded as sports activities rather than play provision.

- 3.5 The open access play sessions were organised and managed on behalf of the Council by the Torfaen Play Service (TPS). These were run over a 19 day period (1st to 25th August) as follows:

Venue	Times	Age
ABERGAVENNY		
Abergavenny Youth Centre	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Deri View Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
MONMOUTH		
Kymin View Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Sports Pavilion, Monmouth Sportsground	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
CHEPSTOW		
Bulwark Community Centre	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Thornwell Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
MAGOR		
Magor Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
CALDICOT		
Caldicot Rugby Club	1.30pm – 3.30pm	5 – 11 years

- 3.6 Attendance at the open access sessions was free of charge and they were fully inclusive for children with disabilities/additional support needs. Because the sessions lasted for just under two hours each, these sessions also did not require registration with the CSSIW.
- 3.7 When the matter was considered some months ago by the Select Committee, some concerns were expressed about the safeguarding aspect of the schemes, because of the open access nature of these provisions. Officers were asked to report back to members on this matter once the schemes had taken place and that, effectively, is the purpose of this report.
- 3.8 The open access playschemes were staffed by a mixture of predominantly paid staff and some volunteers and immediately prior to the schemes commencing all staff underwent a full week of training, during which over 40 different modules were delivered to ensure that the staff had the necessary skills to work with children and young people.
- 3.9 In delivering the open access schemes, Torfaen Play Service adhered to all safeguarding policies and procedures in line with Monmouthshire County Council and the South East Wales Safeguarding Board, which was one of the provisions in the Service Level Agreement entered into between the two authorities.
- 3.10 All of the delivery sites had a secure building linked to outside areas, so that all children were placed at all times in a safe and supportive setting. During the lead in period, there was close and effective communication with the Children with Disabilities Team based in Social Services. Disabled children and those with additional support needs were allocated 1:2:1 support workers to ensure that they felt supported in an inclusive environment. For a small number of children with “high end” support needs, there was a specialist provision held at Pontypool Active Living Centre and there were five spaces at this provision allocated to children from Monmouthshire.

- 3.11 Prior to attendance at their first open access session, all children had to be registered and details of the names and contact details of their respective parents/guardians were taken in case any of the children wanted to leave before the end of any sessions that they attended. The vast majority of children registered attended most sessions at their chosen site and a number of children attended both morning and afternoon sessions. No particular difficulties were experienced and there were no significant safeguarding issues that arose with any child during the period that the schemes were operating.
- 3.12 Consideration is now being given to the provisions to be implemented for the summer period 2017. The self financing Monmouthshire Games at the leisure centres continued over the October half term period and it is likely that similar provisions will be made for five weeks over the summer period next year. Discussions are taking place with TPS regarding the open access provisions for 2017 and discussions are also taking place with the various Town and Community Councils in an effort to secure their continued financial support.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The revised model of play provision implemented for the summer period this year was significantly different to the previous model of provision that had taken place at the leisure centres for the last twelve years. This was the first time that play based on “open access principles” was delivered in Monmouthshire over a sustained period.
- 4.2 The provision of sufficient play opportunities for children contributes to the Single Integrated Plan themes that people are confident, capable and involved and our county thrives; supporting families to benefit from positive environments to nurture their children to grow, develop and prosper; and access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities.
- 4.3 The 2013 -16 Outcome Agreement with Welsh Government Theme 1: Improving school attainment included “To ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities” and Theme 5: Improving early years’ experiences - including access to physical activity and play for children and young people.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The Council does not have a dedicated budget for play. The previous staffed play provision (excluding the Bulwark scheme which was funded by Chepstow Town Council) was funded via contributions from ten Town and Community Councils, income from charges and Families First access grant money to enable children with disabilities to access mainstream playschemes. However, despite this funding and income generation, the previous provision had an unfunded element (in 15/16 of circa £40K), principally staffing costs, which was being absorbed by leisure services and which impacted on their trading position.
- 5.2 This year the Council commissioned the Torfaen Play Service to deliver the open access playschemes over the summer period at a fee of £64,800. The majority of this cost was funded by contributions from the ten contributing Town and Community Councils and from an access grant of £20,000 from Families First. There was a small unfunded cost that was met by existing service delivery budgets, but there was an overall saving of circa £40K to

the Leisure Services budget this year. The management costs of the open access provisions were included in the contract with the Torfaen Play Service.

- 5.3 In planning the staffed play provisions for summer 2017, there are still a number of uncertainties. Although attendance levels in 2016 were very good, our ability to continue with the revised model of delivery next year relies heavily on the continued financial support of the Town and Community Councils and on the Families First grant, which is subject to review on a regular basis. The Welsh Government has signalled that the Council's overall Families First funding is likely to be reduced next year but the details of this reduction have yet to be received.

7. CONSULTEES:

Play Strategy Group

Consultations with Town and Community Councils on the staffed play scheme options.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Monmouthshire Play Review – A Critical Assessment of Staffed Play Provision, Torfaen Play Service October 2015
- Reports to CYP Select Committee on 12th Nov 2015 & 14th Jan 2016
- Torfaen Play Service Summary Report on Collaborative Delivery of Summer Playschemes in Monmouthshire in 2016 (copy attached at Appendix A)

9. AUTHOR:

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 07894 573834

Email: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Report on Collaborative Delivery of Summer Playschemes



Supporting Every Child's Right to Play Freely and Safely in their Community Environment

A partnership was established between Torfaen Play Service and Monmouthshire County Council to deliver open access playschemes during the summer of 2016.

This as a result, would enhance Monmouthshire County Councils Play Sufficiency Action plan and contribute to the council meeting the requirements set out by Welsh Government in relation to securing sufficient play opportunities.

It was agreed that Torfaen Play Service would lead on the recruitment, coordination and management of playschemes.

The Playschemes were delivered from the following venues:-

Venue	Times	Age
ABERGAVENNY		
Abergavenny Youth Centre	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Deri View Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
MONMOUTH		
Kymin View Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Sports Pavilion, Monmouth Sportsground	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
CHEPSTOW		
Bulwark Community Centre	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
Thornwell Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm	5 – 11 years
MAGOR		
Magor Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon	5 – 11 years
CALDICOT		
Caldicot Rugby Club	1.30pm – 3.30pm	5 – 11 years

Staffing

The following staff were recruited to run the playscheme sites in Monmouthshire:-

4 Site Supervisors

8 Playworkers

16 Playcare Workers

12 Volunteers

Recruitment started in April with the interviews taking place in May for both paid workers and volunteers. Paperwork was then completed on each successful candidate including DBS, starter forms, and references.

A full training audit was completed on all staff from the information captured within the interview process. This then enabled us to identify which qualifications and training the workers/volunteers already held and what they needed to participate in within training week.

Parents/ Carers and social workers were contacted in May to identify children with disabilities to attend the Playschemes. A robust referral form was completed by parents/carers detailing the individual needs of the children's.

Workers/ volunteers were identified to support specific children and additional training was put in place for staff where required.

Individual communication passports were put in place for the children who required them along with behavioural plans for all children.

A training week took place on the week beginning the 23rd July. The training was delivered at West Mon School.

Within this week over 40 different modules were delivered to ensure that staff had the necessary skills to work with children and young people. These included the following:-

Code of Conduct	Children's Rights
Playwork Principles	Little or no Resources
The Benefits of Play	Team Building
Safeguarding	Professional Practice
Health and Safety	Team Planning
Manual Handling	Anti-Bullying
Asbestos Awareness	Planning Rich and Varied Play Environments
Basic Games Training	Basic Autism / ADHD Awareness
In depth Autism / ADHD Awareness	Disability Awareness
Behaviour Management	Dealing with Issues
Site Files	"Old Skool" Games
Tube Feeding	All about My child
Group Games	Tuck/ Book Keeping/ Money Making Ideas
Epilepsy Awareness	Buccal and Midazolam
Deaf Awareness	Trips, Late Collection and Missing Children
Risk Awareness / Risk Benefit	Pre Playscheme planning in teams
Inclusion	Personal Care / Hygiene and Data Protection
Paper plates are Great	Face Painting
Welsh is Fun	Street Games
The Big Team Build	Butlin's "Red Coat" Dancing
Music and Rhythm	"Jumpers for Goalpost "
Dodgeball Challenge	Team Teach
Policies and Procedures	OCN in Playwork for Volunteers

Registration Figures

Kymin View Primary	66
Monmouthshire Sports Pavilion	43
Abergavenny Youth Centre	39
Deri View Primary School	58
Bulwark Community Centre	68
Thornwell Primary School	57
Magor Primary School	76
Caldicot Rugby Club	129
Total	536

Activities

A wide program of activities took place on the playschemes including the following:-

*The Rio Olympics Theme Days

*Inter Site Sports Day

*Visits from the Fire Brigade

*Nature Trails

*Teddy Bears Picnic

*Army Themed Days

* Animal Encounters

* Re-enactment Days

*BBQs

*Talent Shows

*Fundraising Days

*Water Fights

* Visit to Abergavenny castle

* Music and Drama

Children with Disabilities / Behavioural Needs

40 children were provided with 1-1 support over the summer. The children with the higher complex needs were supported at Pontypool Active Living Centre.

Kymin View Primary	6
Monmouthshire Sports Pavilion	5
Abergavenny Youth Centre	2
Deri View Primary School	1
Bulwark Community Centre	4
Thornwell Primary School	4
Magor Primary School	6
Caldicot Rugby Club	7
Pontypool Active Living Centre	5
Total	40

Inclusive Support

We asked parents and carers of children with disabilities to complete the following feedback questionnaire.

Were you happy with the level of support provided?

Yes 100% No Unsure

Comments

*-We felt supported from the initial contact
-I was very happy with the support for Jordan
-Yes, Oscar really liked his 1-1
-I am extremely happy with the support
-I believe Torfaen Play went above & beyond and we couldn't have asked for more
-I was extremely happy with the level of support provided for Mathew and it was a better experience than in previous schemes
-Thank you guys the support was great*

Did you have enough information about the schemes prior to it starting?

Yes 100% No Unsure

Comments

The information provided by Andrea Sysum was excellent

Has attending the Playschemes benefitted your child?

Yes 100% No Unsure

Comments

*-Most Definitely
-Yes, it allows him to have the opportunity to interact with others
-Yes he thoroughly enjoyed it
-It gave Edward the structure over the summer that he needs
-Molly loved playscheme
-Matthew really enjoyed attending the playscheme. He got very excited about attending each day
-Without a shadow of doubt it gave Nate a routine a routine and the ability to mix with others*

Has Playscheme benefited you as a family and increased family resilience

Yes 8-%

no 10%

Unsure 10%

*-I managed to keep up with the household duties
-My husband and I were able to go to work during the holiday period knowing ----
Mathew was safe and happy
-As a family we had brilliant support from the Playschemes. It made our daily
struggles so much easier
-Yes, we were able to spend time with Edwards siblings doing "normal activities" that
he finds difficult or destressing
-We all think it's been lovely to see Alex happy
-It allows us to have respite, plus Oscar feels more accepted in society, this then
benefits the whole family
-Daniel comes home happy after having a good experience*

Have the Playschemes allowed you to make changes to your lifestyles/behaviours?

Yes

50%

No

20%

Unsure 30%

*-It's difficult to answer this as it was only 4 weeks but it did give us time as a family
and indeed time as individuals*

Have the Playschemes allowed you to improve family dynamics?

Yes 80%

no 10%

unsure 10%

*Yes – during the summer we were able to spend time with my other child and do
things we normally couldn't do when Edward is with us
Yes – I could spend quality time with my teenage son
Yes – we were able to give our daughter more time and more attention*

Have the Playschemes helped to improve your children emotional and mental well-being?

Yes

100%

no

Unsure

*Definitely – he was certainly more happy after attending the sessions
Daniel has benefitted from attending the additional socializing*

Feedback from Children and Young People

1) Have you enjoyed Playscheme this year?

Yes 92%

No 1%

Don't Know 7%

Comments

- *Playscheme is so much fun. There are so many activities to do. Me and my brother loved it and all the staff are great.*
- *I want to thank the play leaders for putting out all the toys*
- *I like playing with my friends in playscheme*
- *I like playing Football*
- *- There were lots of fun things to do*
- *Everyone Loved it*
- *- PJ days are awesome*
- *We loved the Water Fight*
- *-We Loved*
- *- It's Fun*
- *I get to see my mates*
- *- it's good to have somewhere to go*
- *Dress up days are awesome*
- *- loads of activities and loads to do*
- *- It's always fun –*



2. Have you found the Staff helpful?

Yes 93%

No 1%

Don't Know 6%

Comments

- Andy is my favourite Playworker
- We like Dan he makes us laugh
- Everyone was helpful at Bulwark
- Yes they always helped us
- When I am sad they help
- all kind
- they helped us with the Arts and Crafts when we got stuck



Deri View Primary

3. Have you made any new friends at playscheme?

- **Yes 80%** **No 13%** **Don't Know 7%**

- *I play with boys at playscheme who are not from my school*
- *I have made new friends but lots were already my friends*
- *I love my new friends*
- *I like playing with new children*

Den Building at Monmouth Sports Pavilion



4. What activities did you enjoy the most?

- Messy play with the pasta and the water fight
- dodgeball
- Water Fight
- The Farm trip
- Boot Camp
- Dodgeball
- Football
- Making Pom Poms
- Touch Rugby
- dodgeball
- Face Painting
- Singing
- Party
- Badminton
- The Wii
- Football
- Rounder's
- Cricket
- Arts and Crafts
- loom bands
- Speed Cups
- Jump the Creek
- Hockey
- Parachute
- The Ball Pit
- Gymnastics
- basketball
- Drawing
- History Day
- Theme Days
- Dress up Days



Bulwark Playscheme

5. What concerns you most when you play outside?

Dogs	11%
Bullies	56%
Strangers	25%
Traffic	8%

Other Comments

- Older Boys
- Mum says you have to look both ways for cars
- People who steal
- Older kids make me worried to walk past
- I am scared of Bombs!
- Falling over
- Dog poos
- I try and stay away from older kids they are not nice



Monmouth Sports Pavilion

6. Are you allowed to play outside in your community without an adult?

Yes 53%

no 33%

don't know 14%

Comments

- Only at my friend's house or in the back garden
- only very close to my house
- I go out every day to play
- I am allowed to go to the park with my friends



Caldicot Rugby Club



Deri View Primary

7. How can we make playscheme better?

- _ more sports*
- _ more Climbing*
- Wii consoles*
- more trips*
- Come to playscheme instead of school*
- Have playschemes on the weekend too*
- Have it for longer days*
- IPads*
- Cooking Lessons*
- games consoles*
- We would like the extra day on the last week (Friday)*
- More variety of sweets with the tuck*
- Make it longer*
- To have dancing competitions*
- Aqua aerobics*
- More arts and Crafts*
- run the whole 6 weeks*



Thornwell Primary

8. How did you know playschemes were taking place?

- My mum said
- My friends said
- School
- Facebook – Torfaen Play
- _ - My parents
- _ Fliers at school
- _ Letters from school
- Mum saw it on Facebook
- From my school
- Flier cane through the letter box
- Word of Mouth
- We had leaflets given in at school
- My friends said about it
- Grown-ups tell us
- Poster
- Twitter and Facebook
- My school
- we had letters
- My mums Facebook she follows Torfaen Play
- Internet
- Friends
- my dad and mum said about it



Kymin View Primary

10. Do you feel safe when you are at playscheme?

Yes 96% **No 1%** **don't know 3%**

- *I miss my mum*

Any other comments?

- I never want to not come to playscheme
- I have so much fun when I am here
- My brother loved the Pokémon Ball
- Playscheme is fun for everybody
- Football is life
- Playing is great
- We love Playscheme
- Its great fun!
- Every day



Deri View Primary

Feedback from Parents / Carers

- *Lovely Play Leaders who are friendly with all the children, My kids loved it –*
- *Both my children attended they are 10 and 6. Great variety of activities which have really kept them entertained. Very Friendly leaders –*
- *I wanted to drop you a line to praise and say how absolutely well the playscheme was run and organised. The staff at Magor and Caldicot were amazing. Special thanks to our sons 1-2-1 Stacey who was brilliant, totally brilliant with him and Jodie the site supervisor who went above and beyond to make both N and I supported as well. Exceptional provision. Thank you so so much-*
- *Alanna and Erin have had a great time and have enjoyed every day – we look forward to next year! –*
- *My daughters has loved coming and making new friends. The staff have been brilliant and there has been loads for the kids to do*
- *My daughter had an absolutely fabulous time. Congratulations to all the staff for their hard work and energy.*
- *Isla and Griff have loved every minute of playscheme. The leaders are friendly and caring. They have provided entertaining activities for all the children – Thank You!*
- *I was extremely happy with the support Mathew Received. It was much better than in previous schemes –*
- *Daniel has benefited from additional socialising over the summer –*
- *Brilliant Team, Brilliant Fun – my Children loved it*
- *Please can we halve half terms too – Mum, Magor Primary*
- *We would love all day sessions with this fabulous team*
- *My children thoroughly enjoyed it*
- *Friendly staff with a variety of activities – the Theme Days were amazing*
- *It's great the staff all wear red so children know who is in charge*
- *I think Torfaen Play are doing an amazing job – keep up the good work*
- *-it has been lovely to see Alex Happy*
- *The children love coming – lots of interaction and smiles*
- *My son made lots of new friends over the summer*
- *From attending Playscheme at Magor and Caldicot Oscar has felt more accepted into society which benefits the whole family –*
- *I am extremely happy with the level of support that has been provided for Molly, they have gone above and beyond for us and we couldn't of asked for more*

