

Hasting Borough Council Play Strategy – Make Way for Play Action Plan

1. Children must feel safe and welcome where they play. Our community must make safe, welcoming, accessible provision for all children to play no matter what their age, physical, mental abilities, personal circumstances or cultural background. All children and young people have a right to play freely and safely in inclusive play spaces.

- Spaces should be accessible welcoming and engaging to all children.
- Recognise that trained staff can enhance a child's play experience.
- Play provision staffed by trained play workers are important for children without access to play-friendly environments.
- Risk and challenge are intrinsic to play and a balanced approach must be taken to these.

No.	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
1.1	Raise the profile of risk and challenge in children's play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County to organise and promote risk and challenge in play work shops to decision makers • Support community initiatives to enhance green spaces to promote opportunity for quality play • Support development of Adventure play ground, including attending monthly partnership meeting • Work in partnership with Hastings Borough Council Rangers Service • Work in partnership with the Access to Nature scheme 	<p>By 2010</p> <p>Start April 2010</p> <p>Start Sept 2010</p> <p>Start Jan 2011</p> <p>Start Jan 2011</p>	<p>Officer Time</p> <p>Officer and casual play worker budget</p> <p>Officer Time</p> <p>Officer Time</p> <p>Officer Time</p>
1.2	Increase usage of high quality, high volume play spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure usage of 3 local play spaces on quarterly basis. • Promote spaces and engage with local communities through Schools, Children's Centres and Street Play provisions 	Start Jan 2011	Officer time
1.3	Review reported incidents at public playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure procedures for reporting to relevant HBC Officers are in place 	Start Sept 2010	Officer Time play projects planning meetings
1.4	Sustain and develop street play project in deprived neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek and apply for external funding to sustain and develop the street play project 	Ongoing	Officer Time

2. Work with children and young people of all abilities, and their parents/carers seeking and valuing their views and opinions.

- Ensure children and young people including those with disabilities are at the centre of developments and initiatives which impact on their play.
- Ensure children are empowered to become equal partners in shaping their play provision.
- Ensure skills and standards are developed.

No.	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
2.1	Engage and work with residents to support identified needs arising from the Play Space Audit 2010 or elsewhere where funding is identified for projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop multi agency approaches to observation based needs assessments. • Monthly meeting with parks and open spaces team • Continue with existing community development work 	May 2010 Ongoing	Officer Time and casual play worker budget
2.2	Build on the play plus programme that involves and supports traditionally excluded families with a focus of including those with disabled children, to access play opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the inclusion action plan, developed through the play plus project, to break down identified barriers to play 	Start Summer 2010	BLF for 2010 – club 4 kids assistance and seek external funding for 2011
2.3	Encourage the use of the County Wide Play Strategy framework document on consultation in play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback county recommendations at Play Forum Meetings 	Start May 2011	Officer Time/Play Forum

3. Develop and sustain partnerships that will extend the range of play and leisure services

- Support Hastings and St Leonards Play Forum.
- Recognise the Play Forum as the focus for play development and play policy throughout the town.
- The Play Forum will identify issues related to standards of provision and development of best practice throughout the local network.
- Work in partnership with other departments of the council and external agencies and neighbouring authorities to develop a holistic approach to the delivery of play opportunities and facilities.
- The Play Forum will seek to have representation on the local Children's Services Planning Group and the Hastings Community Network.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
3.1	Host four Play Forum meetings per annum to ensure effective liaison between Hastings Borough Council and all statutory and voluntary organisations with an interest in play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate meetings and continue a monitoring framework for the Play Action Plan and the Parks and Open spaces play audit. • Promote Play Forum as vehicle for communications. 	Quarterly meetings	Existing budgets, officer and volunteer time
3.2	Review the terms of reference, constitution and representation of the Play Forum. Strengthen links with children and families reference groups and county wide play professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate this process 	Sept 10	Officer Time, Volunteer Time
3.3	Ensure that Play Forum representatives are informed of opportunities to participate in regional and other groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on forthcoming play conferences and workshops. • Feedback to forum advising on appropriate resources to enable attendance 	Ongoing process Standing agenda time	Officer Time
3.4	Promote the importance of play for children and families when ever opportunities arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with, regeneration, planning, policy and other internal department with an effect on play and to advise and direct on play policy and provision as required. • Attend monthly Leisure and Amenities managers meetings. • Link Play Action Plan with Cultural Strategy 	As required and ongoing process Start Jan 2011 Ongoing	Officer time including senior management and HBC colleagues Officer Time Officer Time

4. Maintain a flexible and co-ordinated approach to play services to support community expectations with the resources available

- To continue to be involved and aware of policy at national level through county, regional, national, agencies and groups.
- Identify current provision and highlight gaps in social groups (e.g. parent & toddler groups and drop-ins)
- Maintain a database of borough wide play facilities.
- Continue and encourage the sharing of play resources across the Borough

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
4.1	Update the audit of play spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out new audit of play space and continue a process to monitor changes and developments to play spaces 	Audit completed by June 2010 and Ongoing	Officer time/Play worker time- Budget from Parks
4.2	Ensure Play presence on Hastings Borough Council website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop play website linking with Active Hastings. 	Ongoing	Staff time
4.3	Support the development of resources to enhance the use of a loose parts play across the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in a working group to support the development of the Scrap store, based at the Adventure play ground 	Sept 2010	Budget from Pathfinder play forum funding
4.4	Innovative Audit of free play activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated partnership snapshot observation exercise of children's free play 	Summer 2011	Officer Time, Pathfinder funding through play forum
4.5	Enhance community knowledge of play opportunities within the home and outdoor environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop family, led play experience ideas through play resources booklet 	July 2010	Officer Time Pathfinder funding through play forum

5. Develop play opportunities that meet identified needs and support community development and regeneration.

- Work in partnership with other directorates for the council to improve play opportunities across the Borough.
- Ensure that children's play opportunities are considered and included in any regeneration development projects
- Work in partnership with voluntary sector links to objective 2.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
5.1	Extend and develop youth and play provision particularly 5-13 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership works with voluntary and statutory organisations to provide additional resource. • Provision of Summer play sessions on Hastings Beach to support HBC Cultural Strategy • Seek additional funding to redevelop and sustain the Council managed 'Street Play' initiative. • Work in partnership with Active Hastings providing play opportunities within crèches alongside Active Hastings, Active Women Project. 	<p>Start Oct 2010</p> <p>Start May 2011</p> <p>Dec 2010</p> <p>Jan 2011</p>	<p>Existing budget and additional external budgets required for new projects</p> <p>Apply to Reaching Communities BLF to sustain and improve current good work</p> <p>Officer Time and Active Hastings External Budgets.</p>
5.2	Support the development a positive understanding to teenage play and informal congregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and liaise with partners and support county wide briefing seminar. Feedback to Play Forum quarterly 	Start Dec 2010	Officer Time
5.3	Support best possible design and delivery in all supervised and un supervised provision that has play among its objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed into the places for play advisory group and the disseminate to Play Forum and other interested parties 	Start November 2010	Officer Time

6. Work to improve the quality of life of children and families by encouraging play schemes and groups for formal and informal play activities within neighbourhoods, meeting local needs.

- Support groups in seeking funding for Out of School provision.
- Raise awareness of play development as a cornerstone in the alleviation of frustration and stress for children, parents and carers.
- To identify existing provision and new initiatives, to enable a co-ordinated approach to play provision.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
6.1	Support play organisations in working in partnership with ESCC in providing extended school services within local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support organisations in applying for funding for Access to activities funding through the LSP 	On going	Officer Time
6.2	Sustain and improve the quality of established play events and increase equality of access to valuable play opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and develop large scale play events to cascade play opportunities throughout the town • Continue to identify and resolve barriers to play. 	Ongoing	Officer Time Partnership Working
6.4	Work in partnership with Local Partnerships for Children and the children and families reference group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Play Forum is represented and to promote play events and services. 	Ongoing	Officer Time support from Play Forum members as appropriate.
6.5	Contribute to the development of the Adventure playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer Support with development and monitoring of Pathfinder targets 	May 2010	Officer Time

7. Work to improve quality and variety of play opportunities for children and families by making local play opportunities enriching, rewarding and fun.

- Delivering events aimed at children, young people and their families e.g. Summer in the Park, Play on the Beach and local consultation events.
- Links to objective 3
- Develop the involvement of all children and young people in the planning and delivery of Play events.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
7.1	Maintain and improve the standard and quality of local Play Events. Explore external funding opportunities to further develop these programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the programme of Summer in the Park and local play events in line with budget provision., whilst seeking additional external funding. 	ongoing	Existing budgets identify external funding for 2011
7.2	Work with relevant partners county wide to share knowledge with regard to the implementation of new innovative natural play spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address maintenance and safety issues, which affect design and care of play spaces. • Explore natural play space developments using lessons learned from pathfinder. • Ensure representation and promotion at county play space seminar. 	Ongoing	Officer/staff time
7.3	Continue the formal process through which young people are recruited, trained, rewarded and involved in the planning and delivery at Play events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Partnership working with the NSPCC and YDS to deliver training and engage young people within the project • Extend the young volunteers program to include the Adventure Play Ground • Mentor 3 new 6 month future job fund posts 	Summer 2010 and then from March 2011 Jan 2011	Existing budgets and NSPCC/YDS/In2play Skills Active/ Play Officer time

8. Help children feel secure in their surroundings, and understand the natural and built environment

- Involve all children and young people in the consultation process for a wide range of projects
- Involve all children and young people in the design and redesign of play space and the wider environment
- Ensure that children with disabilities have access to appropriate play opportunities
- Links to outcome 2
- Advise planners, designers and developers to promote continuous improvement in play provision and reflect the needs of young people during regeneration.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
8.1	Support the development of a county wide Play Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Play forum informed on East Sussex County Council's planning working parties program. 	By December 2010	Officer Time
8.2	Maintain contacts with planning officers and report on comments to Play Forum where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Development Officers to comment on all planning applications where there is a play issue. Continue to attend Parks and Open Spaces planning meetings. 		Officer Time
8.3	Create partnership and pool budgets with relevant bodies to develop play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek external funding and continue to contribute to play space design advice to developers. 	Ongoing	Officer Time

9. Raise the profile of children's Play throughout the community of Hastings and St. Leonards

- Ensure that the profile of play and its impact on the lives of residents is represented in the key policy developments within the council.
- Use all relevant opportunities to inform the community, and promote the value of play.
- Recognise and implement the National Play Charter.
- Continue to disseminate information from National, Regional and local level in order to ensure that good practice continues to be observed.
- To work with In2play Community Interest Company and the ESCC in offering Play work qualifications.

No	Target	Action	Timescale	Resources
9.1	Promote play, benefits of play and practical opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop display materials and play resource booklet to assist in promotion • Attend community events and continue the delivery of free quality play opportunities and various community events. • Promote play in primary schools in Hastings and St Leonards 	Ongoing	Staff and play opportunities map
9.2	Ensure that Hastings BC and the Play Forum are represented at National and Regional meetings, seminars and conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back to the Play Forum 	Ongoing	Officer Time Existing Budgets
9.3	Ensure that the Adventure play space and its potential is promoted and fully supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of the adventure play ground by liaising with In2Play, providing officer time and support when needed. 	Start March 2010	Officer Time
9.4	Investigate funding opportunities for Play Provision and Play Worker training, ensuring we maintain training on inclusive play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to Reaching Communities Big Lottery Fund. • Seek funding from partners for example Children's Centres and Housing Associations • Inform Play Forum and partners of progress. 	Dec 2010 Ongoing	Officer Time Officer Time
9.5	Raise the profile of large scale free events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Health and Safety officer elected member Senior council personnel Borough and countywide MP. 	Summer 2010	Senior Management and Officer Time

This strategy and action plan has been developed in partnership with the following organisations

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East Hastings, Hastings and St Leonards and Hollington
Children's Centres

Play Links (as they were Robsack, Priory and
Hollington) and now ESCC Play Development Service

Early Years Childcare Service

NSPCC

Excellence Cluster

KINN Theatre Company

Club 4 Kids

In2play Community Interest Company

Hastings Voluntary Action

Active Hastings

Ore Valley Forum

Health and social care forum

East Sussex County Council

YMCA

Hastings & St Leonards PCT

Youth Services

Young Person's Council

East Sussex County Council

Play England

Children, young people and families of
Hastings