



# GOSPORT PLAY STRATEGY

## 2007 – 2012

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Strategy has been produced in recognition of the critical part that play has in making a positive contribution to the overall development of a child or young person.
- 1.2 It recognises the importance of providing a variety of play opportunities (Appendix A) for all children and young people.
- 1.3 This Strategy has been founded on:
- a) The principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:
    - Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
    - Member governments shall respect and promote the rights of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life, and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.
    - Children and young people have the right to express their views and have their opinions taken into account in decisions which affect them.
  - b) The Government's Green Paper, "Every Child Matters" – Change for Children (Children Act 2004). This recognises the need for play, formally, and "the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and something to do" by providing recreational activities for children and young people (Appendix B).
  - c) Hampshire County Council's Children and Young People's Plan and Gosport Children and Young People's Plan which aims to "increase opportunities for play, leisure and recreation for all" (Appendix B).

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

- 2.1 The purpose of this Strategy is to enable Gosport Borough Council to establish a clear six-year framework to provide a wide range of good quality, inclusive, safe, accessible play, leisure and youth activities, both in and out of doors, for all children and young people to enjoy.

2.2 This Strategy will enable the Borough Council to fulfil its duty to contribute to enhancing the quality of life and well-being of all children and young people (Appendix B).

### **3.0 KEY PRINCIPLES**

3.1 This Strategy has been developed through wide consultation and partnership working. In order to achieve the objectives of this strategy, the Council is committed to maintaining strong, effective partnerships.

3.2 The principles of participation of children and young people have been fundamental in the development of this Strategy and will continue to be essential in achieving the key objectives.

### **4.0 CORPORATE PLAN**

4.1 This Strategy contributes towards the Council's Mission Statement "to work with the community to improve everyone's quality of life, establishing a sustainable future for the Borough."

4.2 In addition to this, this Strategy also contributes to the Council's Strategic Priorities:

- Better leisure facilities with increased usage
- Fewer instances of anti-social behaviour
- Improved social inclusion
- Quality public areas and green space
- Enhanced customer service

4.3 This Strategy links to the following Borough Council key strategies, policies and plans:

- Leisure and Cultural Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Children and Young People's Policy (including the Youth Charter)
- Children and Vulnerable Person's Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Local Development Framework

## **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

This Strategy and associated Action Plan has been developed through the following mechanisms and informed by:

- Review of current legislation, guidance and best practice (Appendix B & C)
- Consultation events, workshops and meetings with children and young people; key partners, stakeholders, voluntary and community groups (Appendix C & F);
- Review of the child population in Gosport (Appendix D)
- Review of current play provision and identification of gaps in provision within Gosport (Appendix E)
- Review of national and local research
- Review of relevant consultations (Appendix F), reports and other strategies
- Public consultation on the draft Action Plan

## **6.0 KEY OBJECTIVES**

6.1 Based on research and consultation findings, the key objectives of this Play Strategy for children and young people, which will be delivered through the Action Plan, (Appendix H) are referenced in the Plan as:

- Promote the importance of play
- Improve the quality, quantity and range of play provision for the enjoyment of children and young people
- Provide better information about play provision
- Improve the cleanliness and safety of play areas
- Improve the access and inclusiveness of play provision

## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This Strategy and associated Action Plan have been risk assessed with both operational and management controls identified to mitigate against these (Appendix G).

7.2 Any amendments made to the Strategy or associated Action Plan will be subject to a risk assessment and revisions to existing controls will be made as appropriate.

## **8.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 8.1 The Action Plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Play Partnership, which will include children and young people, and will contribute to an annual review of the Strategy and its objectives.
- 8.2 The Action Plan will be revised in light of progress achieved and any new requirements identified.

### WHAT IS PLAY?

Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. Children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons. (Taken from the Play Principles, endorsed by Skills Active, the national training body for sports, play and recreation in May 2005).

Play can come in many forms; quiet play, boisterous play, time spent with others, time spent alone, with equipment, with imagination alone; it can have an end product, be creative or it can appear unproductive. Children and young people choose how they want to play; some would even state they are not playing, they are “just hanging around”; this in itself is play in just one of its many forms. All types of play are valuable and need to be given the respect they warrant.

### THE BENEFITS OF PLAY FOR CHILDREN

#### Importance of Play

Play can contribute greatly to the development of children in several ways; when playing they explore, investigate and learn through making choices and fulfilling their wishes.

During play, children set their own targets and monitor their own achievements and failures whilst enjoying the freedom to play as they wish. This is vital to a healthy lifestyle and contributes to the child’s social, physical, intellectual, cultural and emotional well-being and development.

In a quality play setting children feel comfortable and nurtured whilst knowing they may learn to take reasonable risks and still remain safe. Through all of this, they are given independence to make their choices, have their opinions listened to, and encouraged to contribute positively to the planning of their day.

Good quality play provision provides children with experiences of the world and helps them to understand how they are included in it. Good quality play provision contributes to the community’s economic and social well-being whilst providing a base where families and children can feel safe and respected.

#### Childhood Obesity

The Department of Health Guidelines “Choosing Activity – A Physical Activity Action Plan” March 2005 recommended – “Community level interventions to promote physical activity, use of green space and play projects to tackle childhood obesity, identified as one of the most serious threats to long-term community health.”

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has strategies for reducing and preventing obesity in children and young people. In these, the value of play and the need for opportunities for children to play are explicit.

As part of this, it is recommended that local authorities and partners should maximise local environments to provide opportunities for activity by creating incidental and planned physical activity, including cycling and walking routes and integrated play areas.

### **Mental Health**

When children play freely they are constantly practising social skills and interaction with others. Whilst playing, children learn values and norms in their culture and wider society, and can find their own level and place within it.

Free play is important for children to develop emotional literacy. Taking acceptable risks, using their initiative and dealing with conflict are all essential skills needed to build their resilience to dealing with life difficulties, and so reduces the risk of them developing mental health problems.

### **Healthy Heart**

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) "Get Kids on the Go" published 2005 gives lots of advice to parents about how to help children to build a healthy heart and develop strong bones and muscles; they include "playing outside rather than watching TV."

They also publish teaching resources and advice about making school playgrounds better places for active play. The BHF go on to say "There is evidence that the shift from unstructured to structured activities for children is one of the causes of their decrease in walking and, that letting children go out to play, is one of the best things that we can do for their health. Outdoor play uses as many calories as organised activities and is more likely to be associated with walking."

## **FACTORS AFFECTING CHILDREN'S PLAY**

### **Barriers to Play**

Research for the Children's Play Council shows that fewer children have freedom to play outside than ever before, and most adults and children think it is a bad thing.

Below is a list of potential barriers drawn up by the Play Partners Group:

- Cost - entry fees and travel; access – times open
- Bullying, vandalism, maintenance of equipment, inadequate equipment, weather, territorial issues, neighbourhood culture.
- Location, geographical area, roads to cross, not close enough to home.
- Lack of information on where and when places / services are available.



- Limited range of facilities and activities on each site. No ancillary facilities e.g. telephone, toilets, lights, refreshments, and adults.
- Perception of risk by parents, lack of safety, the risk of children getting hurt. The safety of younger children when older young people are also using the area.
- Restrictions on use of open space, lack of choice.
- Lack of equipment for use by children with disabilities.

### **Parental Role - Safety Awareness**

The parental role is important and is central to children's play, as they are the first playmates the child has. They choose the age appropriateness and safety of different forms and types of play for their child.

As children grow, they gain ability to do things for themselves and learn responsibilities; however, as individuals, they develop at different rates.

There is no rule as to when a child is old enough to go out unaccompanied, but sensible parents ensure that their child has developed safety awareness through school, older siblings, other family members and by parental example.

Parents normally do this by imposing realistic limits on the time and distance allowed without parental supervision, as well as boundaries of behaviour and discipline that help the child to make judgements.

Parents have mixed ideas on the places that are safe for their child to play and sometime ensure that they are accompanied by an older sibling or friend. This balances their fears on such things as "stranger danger" but still allows a degree of independence. This eventually leads to the young person having complete independence, as they demonstrate how, in teenage years, they can take responsibility for themselves.

### **Play Safety - Risk Taking**

Children & Young People need opportunities to engage in beneficial risk taking within acceptable levels of risk,

Managing Risk in Play Provision (Play Safety Forum 2002), endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive, makes it clear that: - "Playing in play provision is a comparatively low risk activity for children. Of the two million or so childhood accident cases treated by hospitals each year, less than 2 per cent involve playground equipment.

Participation in sports like soccer, widely acknowledged as 'good' for a child's development, involves a greater risk of injury than visiting a playground. Fatalities on playgrounds are very rare – about one per three or four years on average. This compares with, for instance, over 100 child pedestrian fatalities a year and over 500 child fatalities from accidents overall."

### **Equality of Opportunity**

Parents and carers of disabled children are often subject to double disadvantage as more are in poverty, or are single parent families, than the

average for non-disabled children. Having a disabled child is a barrier itself to being able to work because of the difficulty in finding childcare. Some parents of disabled children are unable to afford childcare and have a lack of transport available.

Disabled children are in particular need of good quality play provision as an opportunity for making friends and socialising, as they are often less able to be independent.

Gosport Borough Council has been successful for a number of years in attracting funding to support the families of children with additional needs, so that the child can attend the appropriate play provision with the necessary support they require. In some cases, it is by covering the cost of the child's place at a play centre, or transport, or by covering the cost of a support worker, or additional provision specifically for them. This not only ensures that the child has access to play provision, but also that the family has much needed respite.

Gosport Borough Council provides, through the Children's Fund, for children with additional needs to be supported to enable them to attend mainstream provision of their choice, including the free open-access schemes, full day care holiday provision, after school and breakfast clubs. It also supports one-off projects and specific, special needs schemes with this funding allocation.

Research has shown that some children and families have difficulties accessing play provision because they have a fear of crime or prejudice, or are from marginalised or socially excluded groups which could include:

- those from black and minority ethnic groups
- those living in poverty
- those who are homeless
- asylum seekers
- those looked after or considered vulnerable
- those confined to home because of parental illness or disability

This Strategy aims to address areas of inequality by further developing inclusive play facilities and services.

The focus for the Strategy is also based on the "3 Frees" principles:

- FREE – no charge
- FREE – children and young people choose what they do
- FREE – children and young people can come and go as they wish

This Strategy also includes provision that is not free, but valued and needed in Gosport. The Play Strategy covers development work to address "Barriers to Inclusion" that prevent some people attending and taking part.

## **STATEMENT OF PLAY PRINCIPLES**

### **All children need to play**

Children have a natural inclination to play. Play is critically important to children's development, healthy growth, well-being, creativity and ability to learn. Their future capacity as an adult will be affected by their access to a range of play opportunities. Through play, children gain self-confidence, independence and resilience. They access essential information about themselves and the world around them, which helps them cope with difficult and stressful situations, learn skills of social interaction and fosters social inclusion. While the needs of older children and teenagers are different from those of young children, they are no less important.

### **Children need freedom to play**

Children and young people engage in play for its own sake, not for any external goal or reward. Children play because they wish to do so, it is under their control, is chosen by them and is undertaken solely because it is satisfying and is an outcome in itself. In supervised provision, trained playworkers have an important role in supporting children to create and explore their own play experiences.

### **Children need space to play**

Children need access to a variety of good quality play environments which offer challenge and stimulation. As well as supervised play services, children need access to play at home and in outdoor unsupervised spaces close to home. General community spaces such as streets or spaces between buildings are as important as dedicated play provision.

### **Children need access to a range of types of play**

The play experience is only complete when there is access to a full range of play types.

### **Children need time to play**

Children should have the chance to play every day, when they are not being told what to do, who to do it with or where to go.

### **Children must feel safe and welcome where they play**

All communities must make safe, welcoming and accessible provision for all children to play. Play needs to be diverse; there are cultural diversities in the way children play which have a right to be valued and celebrated.

## **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INFLUENCES**

### **EVERY CHILD MATTERS:**

This Play Strategy has been developed in line with the Government's Green Paper, "Every Child Matters", which is dedicated to achieving the five outcomes for children and young people.

- Enjoying and Achieving
- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well-being

Implementation of this Strategy will make a direct contribution to achieving these outcomes.

### **YOUTH MATTERS:**

The Government's paper, "Youth Matters", is targeted specifically for young people aged 13 to 19, and highlights the need for empowering young people, giving them somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

Young people need to have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. They should be encouraged to volunteer and to contribute to their local community. This Strategy has provided an excellent opportunity for young people's involvement.

#### **Enjoying and Achieving**

The Strategy recognises that, as well as being fun, play opportunities are key to enriching the lives of children, young people and communities. They are stimulating and rewarding, and can be an alternative to anti-social behaviour.

It recognises the importance of ensuring people know where and when play opportunities are; therefore effective publicity and promotion is required.

It aims to work towards all provision to be accessible and inclusive with a priority on where it is most needed.

#### **Being Healthy**

The Strategy recognises that play informal activities are vital in improving the health and well-being of children and young people. They provide opportunities to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

#### **Staying Safe**

The Strategy seeks to improve play and youth facilities and services in respect of children and young people's safety and security.

It recognises that play and youth facilities need to be stimulating and challenging and that “controlled risk” is an essential part of the design and management.

The aim is to ensure public spaces are as child friendly as possible and that the Borough is safe and as conducive as possible to children’s play and outdoor activity.

### **Making a Positive Contribution**

The Strategy recognises the role that play can have in developing communities through providing opportunities for children to play.

Enabling young people and communities to develop ownership, skills and gain work experience on play projects makes a positive contribution.

Children, young people, parents and residents will be consulted and involved in the planning of play opportunities. Consultation will include “hard to reach” communities and children and young people at risk from social exclusion.

### **Economic Well-Being**

The Strategy will seek to maximise the potential of planning obligations with developers to enhance and improve facilities, and to support future maintenance.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLANS:**

This Play Strategy has actions which will contribute to achieving the priorities in Hampshire County Council and Gosport’s Children & Young People’s Plans (CYPP);

- Increased access to play, leisure and recreation for all
- Increased healthy eating and physical activity and reduced obesity
- Reduced incidence of bullying

**GOSPORT PLAY PARTNERSHIP**

Play partners have been identified from a variety of organisations and departments since December 2006, they have all expressed an interest and commitment by attending partnership meetings, sharing information and supporting consultation activities.

Current partners are detailed below:

**Gosport Borough Council**

Leisure & Cultural Services	Head of Leisure & Recreation Development Head of Parks & Services Facilities Leisure Development Officer Child Care Development Worker Sports Development Worker Arts Development Officer Countryside Officer Trainee Leisure Officer
Corporate Policy & Performance Section	Corporate Policy Officer
Housing	Resident Involvement Team Community Development Worker
Planning	Planning Policy Officer
Environmental Services	Streetscene Officer
Community Safety	Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

**External Partners**

Groundwork Solent	Operations Manager Project Officer for the Community Team and the Youth & Education Manager
Hampshire Early Education and Childcare Unit	Senior Development Officer for Play
Hampshire Children's Services	Senior Youth Officer

Hampshire Children and Family Forum (0-19 yrs) voluntary org.	Gosport Branch Co-ordinator
Hampshire Children's Fund	Senior Development Officer
Portsmouth Housing Association	Community Development Worker
Education	Extended Services Co-ordinator, Brune Park Community College
Education	Extended Services Co-ordinator & School Sports Partnership Manager Bridgemy Community Sports College
Hampshire Library Service	Discovery Centre
Hampshire Museums	SEARCH
National Childminding Ass'n	Gosport Childminders
Pre School Learning Alliance	Co-ordinator
Private provider of Childcare	Woodpeckers Childcare
Private provider of Childcare	Springfield Holiday Playscheme
After School Club	Alverstoke
Private provider of Childcare	Holbrook Recreation Centre (Camp Adventure)
Children's Centre	Sure Start Rowner staff and parents forum
Children's Centre	The Haven Early Years' Centre staff, childminders and parents' forum

### **Community**

Residents' Associations	Bridgemy, Beryton, Lee on the Solent
Vision4Lee	Residents, businesses, young people
Gosport Youth Council	Young people
Gosport Voluntary Action	Voluntary groups and organisations
Gosport Access Group	Members with disabilities

### **Gosport Play Partnership Vision:**

We are committed to ensuring that all our play and recreation facilities and services are safe, attractive, welcoming and accessible to every child. The Council will work towards increasing play opportunities for, and eliminating barriers to, the take-up of play provision by disabled children and children with specific cultural needs.

### **Statement of Principles for the Gosport Play Partnership Group:**

(Directly adapted from the Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicators Library - BVP1 115)

The Partnership /Partnership Group recognises the significance and value of play and the poverty of play opportunities in the general environment. It is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments, both in and out of doors, free from unacceptable risks, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through their freely chosen play, both themselves and the world. The development of a Play Strategy is based on the understanding that every child needs opportunities to play, both on their own and, crucially, with others.

The Partnership/Partnership Group is committed to ensuring that environments, services and provision for play are attractive, welcoming and accessible to every child.

The Partnership/Partnership Group will work towards increasing play opportunities and eliminate barriers to the take-up of play provision. This will take the form of developing increased inclusive provision or, if necessary, separate provision, recognising that separate provision may sometimes be a valuable staging post for particularly vulnerable children. Use of specialist services should only be at the choice of the child or their advocate, and all mainstream services must be welcoming and accessible to all children.

The Partnership recognises that:

- children play in a variety of public spaces as well as in dedicated provision
- play environments should provide safe, stimulating play opportunities that place children at the centre of the play process
- children need to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk in their play
- children's views should be sought and listened to
- children should have access to the widest possible range of play experiences and play environments, both indoors and outside.

Judgement about quality in provision will be based on the degree to which children are provided with opportunities to experience directly:

- the natural elements - earth, air, fire and water
- fabricated and natural materials and tools - consumables, 'loose parts'



- challenge - in the physical environment, in the social context and in private
- free movement - running, jumping, climbing, rolling, balancing emotions - both painful and pleasurable, the change to validate a range of feelings
- a variety of stimulation to the senses - hearing, taste, smell, touch, sight
- play with identity - drama, dressing up, role plays, masks, face painting
- varied social interactions - freely chosen across the age, ability, gender, ethnic and cultural barriers, co-operating, resolving conflict, chatting, negotiating, sharing
- change - building/demolishing, transforming environments, the effect of the seasons and weather, growth and decay, predicting and planning, interesting physical environments - plantings, varied levels, enclosed/open spaces, mounds, steps, walls, shelters, surfaces, platforms, seating, privacy, vistas, flexibility.

### **Terms of Reference**

- To promote the importance of play
- To provide current information relating to play and youth provision in the Borough (facilities and services)
- To assist the Local Strategic Partnership to achieve its objectives
- To gain support for the Play Strategy from key partners
- To develop a Play Strategy for the Borough of Gosport
- To undertake consultation on the Play Strategy
- To agree the priorities for the Action Plan to the Play Strategy
- To prioritise a portfolio of play projects
- To implement the Play Strategy Action Plan and to ensure sustainability of projects.
- To monitor, review and evaluate the Strategy at key stages over the period of the Play Strategy
- To work in partnership to obtain external funding for projects e.g. BIG Lottery

**CHILD POPULATION IN GOSPORT**

**Gosport Child Population/Poverty and Children in Need**

Indices of Multiple Deprivations<sup>1</sup> (IMD) 2004 - Gosport has several areas of need, demonstrated in the IMD 2004. Areas of Grange, Leesland and Town wards are ranked within the 20% most deprived areas in the country. 19 Super Output Areas<sup>2</sup> fall within the top 30% for crime deprivation, including the entire wards of Grange, Town, Brockhurst and Forton. There are also 19 super output areas within the top 30% in England for education.

This includes the entire wards of Bridgemary South, Grange, Rowner and Holbrook. Both Grange and Town wards have super output areas in the top 10% for income deprivation affecting young people, whereas Leesland has a super output area within the top 15% for income deprivation affecting older people.

The selection criteria for the Children's Centre programme was based on the 30% most deprived super outputs areas in IMD 2004, which qualified Leesland, Forton and Town for new Children's Centres.

Working with the existing Children's Centres at the Haven and Surestart Rowner, the new centres will provide services for families with children under 5 years old, including early education and child care, child and family health, and family support.

There are 11,711 young people between the ages of 0 – 11 years old in the Borough, with a further 8,128 aged 12-18 years old; this represents 26% of the total population compared to Hampshire with 23.5%.

Grange ward has a very young population, with 41% aged 18 or under, compared to Lee West with 16% and Alverstoke with 17%. This is of particular concern, as areas within the ward are in the top 10% for income deprivation affecting young people. There are many causes and effects of exclusion for young people, ranging from exclusion from education, risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour, to substance and alcohol misuse, and these problems, at an early age, can lead to multiple problems in later life, with the consequential costs to society.

Young people in Gosport are more likely to be absent from school than other young people in Hampshire and the rest of the country, and a lower percentage of young people achieve A to C grades in 5 GCSEs than the national average. Gosport has the highest percentage of young people in care in Hampshire.

Some of the issues faced by young people will be addressed by the emerging Children's Centres that will exist in the Borough, but there is still a need for Gosport, as a local authority to identify and address the issues that young

people may face, by early identification of vulnerable young people and their families, and strong partnership working between Council units and other agencies working with young people.

Whilst unemployment rates in Gosport are low, there are some higher levels of economic inactivity and benefits claimants. Gosport has a working age population of 44,718 and, in February 2006, there were 5530 benefits claimants, with the majority of claimants claiming incapacity benefit.

Both Grange and Town wards have a much higher percentage of claimants than the national average. Town ward has a high rate of incapacity benefit claimants at 11.95% compared to the Gosport average of 5.66% and the Hampshire average of 4.82%; this has increased from 8.88% in the last 4 years, representing an additional 75 claimants. Grange ward has a high rate of Lone Parents at 6.97% compared to a Gosport average of 2.17% and a Hampshire average of 1.66%.

Over the last 4 years, there has been a steady decrease in the numbers of lone parents in Grange ward, although statistically, it still has the second highest percentage of any ward in Hampshire, including Portsmouth & Southampton.

### **1. Indices of Multiple Deprivation**

*This is the most comprehensive mapping of deprivation across England and was launched in April 2004 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The indices are based on 37 indicators classified into seven domains of deprivation:*

- *income deprivation*
- *health deprivation and disability*
- *barriers to housing and services*
- *crime*
- *employment deprivation*
- *living environment deprivation*
- *education, skills and training deprivation*

### **2. Super Output Areas**

*These are small areas within wards used by the Office for National Statistics and other organisations for statistical purposes.*

**PLAY PROVISION IN GOSPORT****Play In Parks and Open Spaces**

Gosport has many good quality parks and open spaces. In the Gosport Youth Strategy 2002, consultation indicated that most young people valued the open spaces, parks, beach areas, waterfront, shopping, leisure and sports facilities.

The Council has recognised areas of shortage of public space and facilities in the Open Space Monitoring Report 2004 and has addressed much of this with new play areas, a refurbished paddling pool, skate parks, BMX track, multi use games areas, youth shelters and sports facilities.

**Natural Play Environments**

Gosport benefits from a vast area of sea front and beach areas, offering families, children and young people the opportunity to explore water activities. Gosport also benefits from having some large areas of open space including the Alver Valley and Gilkicker. The Alver Valley Master Plan was developed through public consultation in 2000 and has already provided a BMX track, with an equestrian centre, golf driving range, nature trails, ponds, visitors centre and additional sports and play facilities included in future proposals. A number of other parks offer a mixture of activities including sports, skate boarding and walks as well as having trees, woods, and open space to explore.

**Sports Facilities**

Gosport has a wide range of facilities including Holbrook Recreation Centre, Gosport Ice Rink, Bowling Clubs, Sailing Clubs, Football pitches, Cricket pitches and Tennis courts.

A number of projects to improve the Borough's sports facilities have received funding from developer contributions. Projects include a new artificial turf pitch at St Vincent College, a new boathouse for the Gosport Model Yacht Club in Walpole Park and a new rugby pavilion in Gosport Park.

Other projects that are in the pipeline are a new cricket pavilion at Privett Park, to be funded by developer contributions. There are also plans to expand the sports facilities at Bridgemary Community Sports College, which has been awarded specialist status.

Investment in, and development of facilities, are key to developing greater participation in sport. The Council is investigating the re-development of Holbrook Recreation Centre, and is developing a Facility Strategy that will identify key actions and enable the Council to apply for funding to support new and improved facilities. The development of sports facilities in Gosport will increase opportunities for "things to do" for young people. Gosport Youth Council is involved in this work and represents the views of young people as to what is most needed by them.

### **Open Access Play Schemes**

The Council's Leisure Development Team operates a variety of free open access playschemes at locations throughout the Borough during Summer school holidays. The schemes normally open from 10-12noon and 2-4pm each weekday and cater for children aged 5-11 years old. Some schemes are registered with Ofsted; others do not operate for long enough to be registered. However, all are operated in accordance with the national standards.

This provision is based at a variety of locations including parks, schools, community centres, leisure centres and in church halls. It is provided solely as play opportunities for children and not childcare; children are free to come and go as they wish. In 2006, the Council operated 11 venues, with a staff team of 54 playworkers and a total attendance of 13,250 over four weeks.

### **Childcare**

Through the work of the Childcare Development Worker post, Gosport now has a range of breakfast clubs and after school clubs in schools and community facilities, as well as holiday clubs offering full day care activities in all school holidays. These all require payment to attend, have to be pre booked and are registered with Ofsted.

Children with additional needs are included within these childcare provisions. In addition to this, there are also 3 other providers of specific schemes catering for children with additional needs.

### **Play in Schools**

In addition to the childcare offered at many schools, training for lunchtime supervisors has been introduced and is designed to support children's play in break times.

Since the introduction of Extended Services, schools own provision of free after school activities has expanded, as has the opportunity, particularly at senior school sites, of a more diverse range of activities provided by specific clubs and groups e.g. sports clubs, music and special interest groups such as "games" clubs for computer games and "war hammer" games. These are not free of charge, but are promoted widely to give greater opportunity for participation.

### **Housing Services**

The Housing Services Resident Involvement Strategy states that '...we will work with all our residents to challenge service provision to deliver quality services and continue to meet residents' aspirations'.

The Resident Involvement Team provides and develops new initiatives to involve everyone. The Team has worked with residents and young people in recent years to improve Forton Park which now has a multi use games area, and a youth shelter is planned. The Team has also worked with individual tenants and a variety of tenant led groups to provide Carnivals and Community Champion Fun days on estates.

Much of the work of the section is linked to the areas identified in the IMD as these have a high number of Council tenants. One of the outcomes of the needs of these residents is that the Team includes a Community Development Officer, funded through Children's Fund, who works closely with Council tenants on a number of projects during term time and school holidays.

The Team works closely with the Council's Community Safety Section and both are involved in hosting crime reduction diversionary activities in targeted areas. The focus for development of initiatives and provision has been in response to crime hotspots and resident involvement. These projects are for young people aged 11+; they are open access, and include football, street art and dance projects. There is scope for expansion of these projects, although this is dependent upon external funding.

Following on from the successful "Football Frenzy" project in 2006 which was run in conjunction with the police and resulted in a downturn in anti-social behaviour, this project will continue in 2007 and incorporate sessions in the winter months. In addition, a Gosport Little League Softball project is being developed for Summer 2007.

The Resident Involvement Team also facilitated a Junior Warden Scheme for 5 -14 year olds. This was piloted in Beryton Road in April 2004 and was funded by the Children's Fund. It has continued to operate in school holidays and has expanded to Seafield, Clarence and Holbrook estates. The sessions are free and open access. Children are encouraged to become "members" of the "team" and get involved in litter picks, planting and environmental activities; they are provided with a uniform and given rewards for taking part.

There are many benefits to Junior Warden Schemes. They assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour through the diversionary activities, help to change children's views on the environment and local community in which they live. The children gain confidence and ability in themselves, and the schemes help to raise their own aspirations on what they can achieve. There is potential for development of these projects if funding is available.

The Council works closely with other housing providers including Portsmouth Housing Association, who have developed provision in Mill Pond, Seafield, and Rowner.

### **Groundwork Solent**

Groundwork Solent has operated a Junior Warden Programme in the Grange ward for over two years with match funding from the Single Regeneration Budget Round 6 (connecting communities, the Wecock and Rowner Compact) and Young People and Friendly Neighbourhoods which is funded through the Big Lottery Fund. The project is a free, open access provision that incorporates regular sessions and one-off events. It is targeted at over-8 year olds living in the local community. It provides positive activities that benefit the children, young people and community. The members are involved in every aspect of the development of the sessions and events.

Groundwork Solent have also expanded their provision in Rowner and now offer a Young Roots 'Time Team' Project which is supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery fund. The project is an 18 month project which works with young people, aged 13 -19yrs olds, from the Rowner estate, and supports them to investigate and research their local heritage.

Through participating in the scheme, young people are able to engage in activities, such as designing their own coat of arms, researching their family tree, making and designing 17<sup>th</sup> century clothing, making bread, researching the change in land use, making clay pots and learning a 17<sup>th</sup> Century circle dance.

### **Gosport Youth Council (GYC)**

The Youth Council consists of young people from 11 to 19 years of age. The GYC was established in 2001 and is supported by Gosport Borough Council and the County Youth Service. The GYC meets weekly at Brune Park Youth Centre. Once a month, they hold their Full Council meeting in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. GYC are consulted on issues relating to young people; they make recommendations to the Council and input to plans and policies.

The GYC are members of our Play Partnership and play a key role in the development process, in particular, the prioritising of developments for improvements, monitoring and consultation.

### **Youth Services**

The Borough has three premises managed by the County Youth Service. They currently have 5 full time staff and 15 part time staff (total 12.5 FTE) providing a range of provision including open access, targeted work and special needs work throughout the year, both in term time and school holidays.

Locally, the youth service works with young people aged 11-24, with at least 80% allocation to the 13-19 priority age group. There are four key issues affecting young people across Gosport: Youth Crime in relation to criminal damage and youth nuisance, culture of drug misuse, exclusion from school and teenage pregnancy.

The youth service provides targeted and universal programmes identified through analysis of need in the area. For example; Inclusion-based work, open access youth clubs, detached youth work, music projects, outdoor education plus youth involvement and participation forums, development of the Gosport Youth Council and support for the Youth Strategy. Local Borough Council action groups and decision-making forums consult with the Youth Council to ensure young people's views are considered and young people have an opportunity to consult with their peers on issues that affect them. Youth workers also support schools Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) programmes and deliver issue based programmes across all projects.

Examples of innovative pieces of youth work include: Teenzone, (alternative education provision for young people at risk of being excluded from school), Trailblazers outdoor education programme, Teenscheme Summer programme for young people with additional needs, DJ workshops and access to safe play at local Multi Use Games Areas via youth worker support.

The “Rowner Youthy” is a purpose-built centre was opened in April 2007, funded by Hampshire County Council, the Youth Opportunities Fund and SEEDA Regeneration Programme. Young people have shaped the development of this resource for the local community.

The service works in partnership with Connexions, Community Safety, Youth Offending Team, Drug Action Team, as well as other relevant agencies, including voluntary youth organisations and Gosport Borough Council.

### **Gosport Youth Concern**

This is a multi-agency group who meet to identify, support and address the needs of young people in Gosport. This group has applied for funding, supported Gosport Youth Council, and facilitated the grant application process for the High Voltage funds by including and supporting young people to be on the panel. It developed the Youth Strategy for Gosport and continues to keep informed and address relevant youth issues.

### **Youth Conference**

This event has been hosted annually by the Gosport Youth Council (GYC) since 2001. The Conference is supported by the Borough Council and the County Youth Service. Each year the GYC select a topic for debate and invite representatives from each of the secondary schools/colleges in the Borough to attend. This enables young people to discuss and raise issues with appropriate personnel from the private, public, community and voluntary sectors on issues that affect them. This event also helps to promote a positive image of young people.

In March 2007 the theme was “Rights and Responsibilities”; the Council’s Children and Young People’s Policy was launched at this event. 60 young people attended, and they were consulted using the Play Strategy survey and draft Play Strategy Action Plan.

### **High Voltage Dance Nights**

These are substance-free music events for 11-16 year olds, held at local venues with local youth bands, DJ’s and dance groups performing.

The net proceeds from these events are given back to young people’s groups via an application to the Gosport Youth Concern group. Current developments are for a local nightclub to host a monthly event of this kind for under-18 year olds.

### **Alive & Activ8**

This event was first held in July 2005 to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gosport and to showcase a positive contribution that young people make.



This event was supported by the Local Strategic Partnership, Gosport Borough Council, Local Businesses and many voluntary organisations. It was a massive open-air, multi agency event that provided young people with a variety of interesting, free activities to 'have a go' during the day and to find out more about what is on and available to do in Gosport.

In the evening, a "Party in the Park" was held; this was a dance and music event on the same basis as the "High Voltage" events. Both these events were very well received, and feedback, from over 500 young people, showed that this was the sort of positive event they wanted. It has continued to be supported annually and is designed and developed by the Gosport Youth Council.

### **Music Fusion**

This is a 3 year joint-funded project that enables young people to develop and practice musical skills.

### **Carnivals**

The Rowner Carnival started in 2003 as a community capacity building project. It is now a well-established annual event that includes a series of workshops leading up to the Summer event and the programme includes a Christmas event.

The same model has been used to develop a Carnival at Seafield and carnivals within community/youth events like Alive & Kicking and Alive & Activ8.

In 2006, funding was awarded for the "Carnival Factory" project to expand workshops and carnivals to other areas of Gosport. In 2007, this programme will include a carnival in Bridgemary.

The workshops and carnivals are all free activities that engage a wide range of children, young people and families. They are a positive experience and have improved the community atmosphere of all those involved.

## **LAND USE**

### **Priorities**

In providing play services within the Borough, research has been undertaken on a number of areas including the priorities of residents, shortfalls of provision and demographics and socio-economic profile of the local population.

Surveys have been undertaken and there are many systems through which feedback is gathered from all sectors of the community, in order to develop the Action Plan to this Strategy for the service changes and improvements required.

A comprehensive audit of public open space was carried out for the Open Space Monitoring Report, which was published as a background paper to the Local Plan Review in 2004. The report found a clear deficiency of all types of open space in the Borough and provided justification for policies in the Local Plan Review to protect all existing open space and facilitate new provision. The Open Space Monitoring Report will be reviewed and updated in 2008.

### **Developers' Contributions**

The Local Plan Review states that all development proposals within the Borough that result in the creation of more homes, and thus put more pressure on existing facilities, are required to make provision for public open space facilities.

In large developments, such as Cherque Farm, these can be provided on site. However, on small sites, where it is neither practicable nor desirable to do this, the payment of commuted sum is required in lieu of provision.

The contributions received from developers are spent on providing new facilities and upgrading existing ones. An example of a scheme that has in recent years benefited from this scheme is the floodlit artificial turf sports pitch and changing facilities at St Vincent College. Smaller schemes include the play area at Bridgemaury Park, The Grove and Leesland Park, and Pirates Cove in Lee on the Solent.

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

Financing the various projects planned will vary dependent upon the type of facility/service provided and the different combination of partners involved.

Sources may include: Hampshire County Council, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Single Regeneration Bid (SRB), Arts Lottery, Big Lottery, Lottery Community Fund, Parks Heritage, English Nature, English Heritage, Housing Developers, Local Network Fund, Global Grants, Gosport Borough Council.

The Big Lottery funding is similar to some other sources of funding and is over a fixed period, in this case 3 years, with a need to demonstrate the sustainability of each project.

In the case for new or re-furbished play areas, parks and open space, the Council remains responsible for the upkeep of these facilities, therefore the future of these is "secure" once they have been installed. The Council direct provision of open access playschemes has been core funded by the Council for over 30 years; it is a well established and valued provision.

New or extended play services will be sustainable through ongoing application to relevant funding bodies and via Developers' Contributions.

## **QUALITY SERVICE - PLAY SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS IN GOSPORT**

### **Standards for Open Space and Play Areas**

The Council's play areas are currently cleaned on a weekly basis, with additional cleaning being provided as required. However, it is the Council's intention to increase the number of these cleans in conjunction with the renewal of the existing contract specifications, due in 2009.

The current inspection programme provides for a weekly physical inspection by the Council's Leisure Maintenance Team of all play area equipment. The team is experienced in this work and responsible for any immediate action required.

In addition to the inspections, the Unit's Leisure Inspectors undertake weekly visits to the facilities to undertake a general visual inspection and to action any issues identified.

An independent inspection is undertaken on an annual basis to each of the Council's play areas by a qualified company; this incorporates a detailed report providing specific recommendations and priorities.

All play equipment purchased complies with the European Standard EN1176.

### **Standards for Supervised Play**

Supervised play settings follow national guidelines from governing bodies or organisations to which they are registered. These set out a range of essential aspects to protect the child from harm and ensure the provision is a safe environment.

### **National Standards for Day Care & Childminding**

These services are registered and inspected by Ofsted. They are graded according to how they meet the national standards required.

### **Hampshire County Council's Open Country Pursuits Policy and Good Practice**

This Policy is used by youth services and schools, clubs and groups when taking children off site for activities.

### **Training**

The key to developing good quality provision is to ensure there is a commitment to ensuring staff and volunteers have the appropriate skills and knowledge.

Playwork, as a profession, is now more widely accepted, and proper training is available for those working with provision or services for children of school age in an 'out of school' play environment. Training is available from basic certificate level through to diploma and degree level.

There are also readily available a range of associated professional development units including: First Aid, Child Protection, Behaviour Management, Health & Safety and Food Hygiene.

## CONSULTATION FINDINGS - SUMMARY

### 1.0 Play Strategy Survey 2007

Children, young people, parents, grandparents, childminders and youth workers have provided information on where children and young people normally play/meet and what they think of that facility, including suggestions for improvements.

The survey was carried out during January to March 2007 at a variety of settings including: school parents' events, crime reduction event, holiday play schemes, pre-school, nurseries, a young women's day and a healthy living day. Information was also gathered at Gosport Youth Conference and through Vision4Lee youth meetings.

The survey information indicates that the majority of children and young people play/meet outside or near to their home or that of a friend. They play/meet in the garden, street, the courtyard or in a nearby green, park or recreation ground.

They also travel further to play/meet at the beach, or to use local community/leisure facilities and to use indoor play centres (in Fareham).

The majority of comments returned were in relation to free, open access parks and open space play facilities.

When asked "What are the best things about the place where you (they) play?" the top three comments from 129 respondents were:

- The range of facilities and activities available (59)
- The opportunity to play and interact with others (43)
- Safety and security (20)

When we asked "What are the worst things about the place where you (they) play?" the top three comments from 124 respondents were:

- Cleanliness, areas being dirty with problems with litter and glass (37)
- Dog mess (25)
- Presence of older children (19)

When asked "What do you think could be added to the place you (they) normally play to make it even better" the top three comments from 99 respondents were

- Improved and increased facilities and equipment at parks and the provision of particular pieces of equipment. (40).

- Improved cleanliness of play areas, particularly in relation to dog mess and the provision of bins. Respondents also requested additional regular cleaning of play areas (26).
- More parks and play areas (13)

## **2.0 Vision 4Lee**

The Vision4Lee group are working to develop and improve the Lee-on-the-Solent area. They hosted two meetings to gather the views of the local young people.

When we asked “what do you like about Lee-on-the-Solent” the top three comments out of 57 responses received were:

- Beach and sea (13)
- Recreation park (7)
- Café/ice cream shops (6)

When we asked “what do you dislike about Lee-on-the-Solent” the top four comments out of 34 responses received were:

- Traffic busy and annoying (6)
- Older children being silly on road and in school (4)
- Housing development – losing green spaces (3)
- Not enough new clothes/sports shops (3)

We then asked “what ideas do you have to improve Lee-on-the-Solent” the top three comments out of 77 responses received were:

- Other types of leisure activities (16).
- More shops and less charity shops (12)
- A swimming pool (5)

## **3.0 Play Partners 2006**

The Play Partners meeting in 2006, indicated possible solutions to identified barriers to play:

- Programme of development, repair, replacement of equipment.
- Improve involvement by residents and young people for “ownership” and development by more specific consultation with users or potential users as a norm for the development of equipment and range of provision.
- Adult presence, staffed activities, presence in parks, checks (friendly face), CCTV
- Advertising of provision and facilities being kept up to date.
- Improve publicity, especially of activities like singing and dancing.
- More provision, mixture of small local play areas and a few bigger, better ones.
- Consider strategically positioned large well equipped facilities incorporating supervised play areas, skate park, MUGA at

venues such as St Vincent, Holbrook, Bridgemary, Lee on the Solent with a mixture of indoor and outdoor.

- Develop parents' education on the importance of play, and for children to take risk.
- Develop provisions suitable for whole age range.
- Greater use of community and school facilities for wider community use out of normal hours.
- Consider ways to provide subsidies and links with bus services

#### **4.0 Summer Playscheme Feedback 2006**

Children aged 5 -11 years old attending one of the Council's open access Summer play schemes are given the opportunity to give feedback on their experiences. They normally reflect this in writing and drawings and during group discussions, stating what they liked best about playscheme and what would they change.

Parents of children that attend one of the Council's Summer playschemes are also always given the opportunity to give feedback. In 2006, parents were surveyed when calling at the Schemes; a total of 85 responses were recorded from parents.

The majority said that they would change nothing about playscheme and were very positive. When not attending playschemes, children play mostly in the home and garden, and on the whole, parents said that they do not require childcare. Nearly all parents felt that the local park should be improved with more supervised activities.

The majority found the "Stuff 2 Do" brochure to be most informative when learning about playscheme; most parents had seen the brochure and thought that it was a useful publication.

When replying to what they would change about the playscheme, many would not change anything, some requested more art and games, others wanted longer hours and some asked for the age to be extended so their older friends could attend.

Feedback on the playscheme showed that 100% of parents were happy with the provision; those who commented on changes said that longer hours and more weeks open were needed. Parents were positive about the locations, most of which are in schools, the variety of activities, and that they were free. Parents found the play-schemes to be a very positive play experience with lots of benefits for all.

When asked the question "What other activities would you like to be available in your area?" the following responses were received:

Local Park, supervised activities	53
Local school, supervised activities	23
Leisure centre	20
Music/drama/art clubs	20

Sports Clubs	10
Guides/Brownies/Scouts	7
Skate park	5
Other	8

## 5.0 **Childcare & Play Survey 2006**

As part of the Extended Services remodelling, the Childcare Sub Group undertook consultation with parents/carers. The survey was given to parents via the primary schools. Of the 648 respondents, all indicated that they would like to access holiday playschemes. These figures indicate at least three more holiday playschemes may be sustainable. Families are reluctant to travel out of their cluster area.

A number of families representing 30 children would like to be able to access open access playschemes. The current provision did not reach capacity during the open period of the Summer; two factors for this may be transport and also a lack of knowledge of the provision.

A small percentage, representing 100 children, would like to access after school childcare. This could be achieved by having one central club in each cluster.

The survey asked parents/carers "What other activities would you like to be available in your area?" Out of a total of 648 respondents, the top four activities were:

- Local Park, supervised activities (315)
- Sports clubs (266)
- Local School, supervised activities (265)
- Music/Drama/Art clubs (264)

This consultation concluded that there seems to be development opportunities within schools, parks and the recreation centre. Signposting needs to be improved and there is scope for more development of sports and other specific clubs like arts, music, and drama groups. Despite these development opportunities, parents highlighted they are completely happy with facilities and feel there are already plenty available.

## 6.0 **Addressing Barriers to Accessing Information – July 03/March04**

This was a Children's Fund Project carried out by Hampshire County Library Service to look at addressing barriers to accessing information. 345 children and young people were interviewed in a variety of settings including two schools, Gosport Borough Council Playschemes, Camp Adventure at Holbrook, St Vincent Holiday Club, Bridgemary Multi Sports Camp, at three museum events, at a netball club and three after school clubs. These interviews were to gain an understanding how children perceived the activities provided and the information associated with them.



They were asked “what can you do in Gosport?”, “what would you like to be able to do in Gosport?” and “what is the best way to give information about what to do in Gosport?”

**Perception of activities available** - 79% out of the 160 respondents were satisfied with the activities available in Gosport for children during the Summer holidays whilst 21% thought they were poor. However, ward analysis of data shows over 25% of parents within Forton, Hardway and Rowner and over 30% in Bridgemary and Town regard them as poor.

**Factors to increase activity attendance** - 59% of parents cited that the most required factor to improve their children’s ‘take-up’ of activities was ‘better information’, apart from Forton and Hardway which was affordability.

46% of parents wanted better activities for their children. Apart from Elson, this was ranked in the top three priorities for all wards.

40% of parents highlighted cost as a factor in preventing them taking their children to activities. Parents from Forton and Leesland regarded cost to be their main issue.

39% of parents felt that the environment needed to be safer and cleaner. This was highlighted in reference to both the cleanliness of the parks and swimming pool

**Ease of finding information** - 54% of parents found information satisfactory to find. Bridgemary, Rowner and Town have far more parents who find it harder to find information.

**Source of information** - the school is overwhelmingly the greatest source for Gosport parents (74%) and also consistently the best source across all wards. Friends and family are a useful source of information. 33% of parents cited that local papers were a good source of information, although websites were not a popular source amongst parents with only 3% of parents suggesting current usage.

**Improving information** - suggestions from parents on how information could be improved were predominately about better advertising. 59% of parents require better information regarding activities for children; this was largely consistent across most wards, apart from Forton and Hardway.

**How Parents want to receive information** - consistently across age and wards, parents stated their preference as being via school and direct to themselves. Other methods mentioned were libraries, shops, local papers and radio.

**Format to receive information** - parents stated several formats including booklets, posters, leaflets and the internet.

## **7.0 Open Space Monitoring Report 2004 – Provision for Children and Young People**

This report summarised the views of the general public and interested groups who were consulted in various ways to establish the identified needs when considering developers are providing new on-site open space:

- Provide a new Adventure Golf Facility at Stokes Bay.
- Provide youth shelters at agreed sites.
- Provide skate park and/or other play areas in the Rowner neighbourhood.
- Provide a new skate park at Lee-on-the-Solent.
- Provide an improved play area in Walpole Park.
- Provide greater number of casual activity areas (i.e. skate park, basketball) that do not create a disturbance to local residents.
- Increase local provision of sites.
- Provide more equipment in certain play areas.
- Improve the standards of Local Areas for Play (LAPs)
- Provide more imaginative play facilities where appropriate.
- Investigate the provision of information signage including name of facility and Council contact information.
- Review cleaning operation and inspection programmes.
- Establish programme of installing rubber safety surfacing in play areas, where appropriate.
- Increase enjoyment levels in play areas (install games in play areas such as 'Hop Scotch').
- Undertake a continual programme of usage surveys to establish current and future requirements.

A summary of key findings relating to identified needs, quality, value and quantity is set out below:

- There is a Borough-wide deficiency of provision for children and young people with significant shortfalls in areas where there are high proportions of under 16s and, specifically, under 10's in Grange ward.
- The quality of play spaces varies across the Borough with the need to improve those that scored low or medium in the assessment.
- There have been some good recent examples of well-designed play areas, such as Pirates Cove in Lee-on-the Solent and the Grove Community Gardens in Christchurch ward.
- There has also been an increased emphasis on providing facilities for young people with the provision of skate parks, youth shelters and hardcourts in several locations across the Borough.
- Vandalism has been a particular problem in certain areas.

- There is scope to enhance play facilities at a number of neighbourhood parks/recreation grounds across the Borough.
- There is scope to provide additional play areas for young children close to home by exploring the use of appropriate amenity areas.
- Further research is required on the use of Local Areas of Play. Many appear to be under-used and lack basic facilities such as an eye-catching feature of interest to young children. Many also lack a bench or bin so parents can meet and supervise.
- In areas where there is a particular shortage of play areas, it may be useful to investigate using school sites out of school hours.

Many of the above have been addressed since the 2004 report. However, outstanding developments will be included in the Action Plan for this Strategy.

**RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAY STRATEGY**

A full risk assessment of this Play Strategy has been carried out in accordance with Gosport Borough Council's guidelines and with the assistance of the Internal Audit Section. The key findings from this assessment are set out below.

Some of the key risks which are negated or minimised by having a Play Strategy and achieving its outcomes, include:

- Lack of a clear framework for play provision
- Partners unclear on the future way forward in respect of play provision
- GBC criticised for the quality of its play provision
- Failure to address access and equality issues.

The Action Plan will help to deliver the outcomes in the Strategy and the generic risks associated with action planning include:

- Overspending or failing to spend or deliver projects as agreed with funding bodies
- GBC or partners criticised for failure or poor delivery of projects/facilities
- Quality and delivery of projects/facilities has a significant negative environmental impact
- Inappropriate location of projects/facilities.

These risks are negated or minimised through a variety of operational controls which include:

- Clear funding agreements
- Appropriate accounting and monitoring systems
- Use of project management principles
- Partnership agreements and effective working practices
- Consultation activity.

The more detailed actions in the Action Plan are risk assessed as they are evaluated, developed and implemented.

## PLAY STRATEGY FOR GOSPORT - DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2007-2012

This action plan has been developed on the results of consultation and in association with the Play Partners Group to deliver the key objectives of this Play Strategy. In addition to this all the actions within this plan contribute to one or more of the outcomes as detailed in “Every Child Matters”<sup>1</sup> and aims of HCC Children and Young People’s Plan<sup>2</sup> and Gosport Children and Young People’s Plan<sup>3</sup>

Action Plan No	Objectives (shaded and in bold) and actions	Lead	Partners	Comments	Start Date	Complete Date
<b>O1</b>	<b>Promote the importance of play</b>					
O1 / 01	Provide information to organisations including at school, for parents, carers and teachers and at community events and activities.	Play Partners Group	Education Voluntary Orgs Youth Council Library/Museum	Alive & Kicking Alive & Activ8 Carnivals	Jul 07	
<b>O2</b>	<b>Improve the quality, quantity and range of play provision for the enjoyment of children and young people</b>					
O2 / 01	Increase the number and range of free, open access play opportunities in school holidays and after school.	Play Partners Group	Private providers Schools, GBC Voluntary Organisations	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Apr 08	
O2 / 02	Identify locations for additional youth provision such as Multi use games areas (MUGA’s), shelter, skate parks and BMX	GBC	Youth Council Groundwork Solent	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Jul 07	
O2 / 03	Develop opportunities for children, young people,	Play	GBC		Sep 07	

<sup>1</sup> Enjoy and Achieve; Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Make a Positive Contribution; Economic Prosperity.

<sup>2</sup> “To improve the health and well-being of children and young people and to raise their aspirations and expectations”

<sup>3</sup> “Increased opportunities for play, leisure and recreation for all”; “Reduced incidence of bullying”; “Increased healthy eating and physical activity and reduced obesity”

	parents and residents to be involved in the planning, consultation, review and development of play provision and facilities.	Partners Group	Housing Youth Council			
02 / 04	Identify and implement a programme for improvement of lighting in parks, MUGA's, cycle ways, paths and open spaces	GBC	HCC	Funding resources to be identified	Apr 08	
02 / 05	Increase the number of hours and range of opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport in school time.	School Sports Partnership	GBC Education Health Sports Clubs Sports Facilities		Apr 07	
02 / 06	Increase the number of opportunities on school sites for children and young people to participate in art, music, drama, sport, play and other leisure activities out of school hours, weekends, school holidays, that are free or at an affordable rate.	Extended Services	Education Children's Services	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Jul 07	
02 / 07	Increase the number of volunteering opportunities for children, young people and the community e.g. junior warden, Roots, conservation volunteering	Ground work	GBC Groundwork Streetscene Education Children's Services	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Sep 07	
02 / 08	Develop and Promote appropriate "natural" play spaces.	GBC	Countryside Section Education	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Apr 08	
<b>O3 Provide better information about play provision</b>						
03 / 01	Develop a mechanism for improving the availability of, and access to, information on play provision.	Play Partners Group	Health Education Library Service		Jul 07	
03 / 02	Promote healthy eating and exercise opportunities in conjunction with Children's Centres and out of school provision	Children's Centres	Health Education		Sep 07	
<b>O4 Improve the cleanliness and safety of play areas</b>						
04 / 01	Identify ways to improve the cleanliness, maintenance of	GBC	Streetscene	Review Contract	Jul 07	

	play areas, beaches, parks and open spaces.		"Friends" groups	Specification		
O4 / 02	Identify and implement a programme to reduce bullying and anti-social behaviours	Crime Reduction Partnership	GBC Housing Police Community Safety Youth Council	Cross refer with Crime Reduction Partnership	Jan 08	
<b>O5</b>	<b>Improve the access and inclusiveness of play provision</b>					
O5 / 01	Improve access to toilets in parks, play areas, beaches and open spaces.	GBC	Streetscene Leisure		Jun 07	
O5 / 02	Increase the number and range of play areas, leisure and sports activities to improve accessibility for those with a disability.	GBC	Groundwork Solent Gosport Access Group & Disability Forum	Dependent on funding from Big Lottery	Jan 08	
O5 / 03	Identify and develop an increased number of cycle ways to include links and signage to play, leisure and sports facilities	GBC	GBC Traffic Section HCC Groundwork		Sep 08	
O5 / 04	Explore issues related to barriers to play for the socially excluded and marginalised groups and identify options for implementation	Play Partners Group	GBC Health Education		Sep 08	