

Report of the Assistant Director for Access & Inclusion (Children's Services) to the meeting of Keighley Area Committee to be held on 19 February 2015.

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Subject:

**ALL TO PLAY FOR: A STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN'S PLAY IN BRADFORD DISTRICT
2013 – 2016**

Summary statement:

This report provides an update regarding recent accomplishments / activities in Keighley relating to the All to play for – Bradford's Play Strategy 2013 to 2016.

The Strategy highlights the right of Children to play, and looks at provision for play in Bradford in the context of local and national changes to policy and legislative framework in which Children's Services operate. The strategy aims to bring together all services for play in Bradford under a shared vision and set of priorities, recognising the importance of play and the positive impact that quality experience have on children and young people

Judith Kirk Assistant Director –
Education and School Improvement -
Children's Services
Phone:
E-mail: Judith.kirk@bradford.gov.uk
Report Contact: Caleb Sutton, Early
Childhood Services Manger 5-11s
Phone: (01274) 431994
E-mail: Caleb.Sutton@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:

Children and Young People's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services



1. SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update regarding recent accomplishments / activities in Keighley relating to the All to play for – Bradford’s Play Strategy 2013 to 2016.

2. BACKGROUND

Members received an update report in April 2014 regarding progress made towards Bradford’s Play Strategy– All to Play for – a strategy for children’s play in Bradford 2013 to 2016 The Strategy was presented to members at the meeting held on the 10/4/14. In addition, members also requested a progress report to be brought back to a future meeting in order to update members in relation to progress against the strategy.

3.1 The Strategy

The Play Strategy highlights the right of Children to play, and looks at provision for play in Bradford in the context of local and national changes to policy and legislative framework in which Children’s Services operate. The strategy aims to bring together all services for play in Bradford under a shared vision and set of priorities, recognising the importance of play and the positive impact that quality play experiences have on children and young people’s personal, social and emotional development. In particular, addressing and risk and developing resilience.

The vision set out in the strategy is that:

“All children and young people are able to access a variety of high quality inclusive play opportunities which support and contribute to the Children’s and Young People’s Plan priorities for all Children, Young People, families and communities in the District”

The Vision is underpinned via four priorities:

- Excellent quality and inclusive play opportunities which are accessible for all
- Address risk and promote resilience in children and young people including vulnerable groups
- Provide access to ‘holistic’ support for vulnerable children, young people and families
- That all children and young people can participate in planning and delivery of play services.

The Play Partnership Executive, a multi agency arrangement, is responsible for co-ordinating play and play work activities across the district. A wide ranging and mixed menu of play and playwork activities are currently being provided by partners across the district. These include:

Fixed Play – this includes 180 fixed play areas for a range of ages, 23 multi use games areas, 9 Youth shelters, A Parkour facility at Ladyhill Park, A regional standard BMX track



in Peel Park and 19 BMX / skate parks and 20 parks in the District.

High impact community play provision – generally described as open access, free play provision including holiday play schemes, the Adventure Playground, POD sessions and an arrange of events including National Play Day and Play week.

Events – In addition to the specific events mentioned above, partners work together to support various community play events coordinated and delivered by the Play Team in areas, such as family fun days, festivals and consultation events.

Forest Schools/Woodland Play – providing fun and stimulating outdoor activities and experiences in the natural environment.

Scrap Shop & Mobile Play/scrap resources – Scrap shop and mobile play/scrap resources available District wide – Scrap Magic and the Adventurous Play Experience (APE) provides low cost art, craft and scrap materials for play and ‘loose parts’ play sessions to a wide variety of settings, mobile play resources available from various lenders at low-cost.

Play Support – working with settings and other providers to improve quality in relation to playwork delivery and the play environments for children and young people.

Play partners – working with vulnerable children and young people to enable them to access play and other provision across the district.

Training and qualifications – delivering Play training and qualifications to practitioners across the district to raise skills and knowledge of the workforce.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Update against priorities – April to December 2014

3.1 *Priority 1 - Excellent quality and inclusive play opportunities which are accessible for all*

National Play Day and Play Week; National Play Day, is the national celebration of children’s play; In Bradford National Play Day takes place at Baildon Recreational Centre. The day features a host of outdoor activities; inflatables, climbing tower, den building, skate boarding, camp fire cooking, donkey rides and much more. The event welcomed over 1174 participants.

In addition to National Play Day, Play Week is a whole week of park based, open access play provision. Voluntary sector and statutory sector partners work together to provide a broad menu of play opportunities in some of the most deprived wards of the District. Over the week approximately 2250 attended. These programs are followed by further one off events carried out across the district. In total 9311 children and young people have participated in a play event during Q1 and Q2, in comparison to 5557 during the same period in 2013 -14.



Keighley:

Seven 'one off' events were supported by the Keighley play team during the past 9 months, including 2 National Play Day/Week celebrations and Keighley Children's Festival. Other events included Disability Rocks, play in schools, play in parks, consultation and community play days. In total 1518 children were recorded at one of these community events.

Events specific to Keighley:

- ✓ Keighley Children's Festival - 198
- ✓ Braithwaite Play Event - 134
- ✓ Ashbourne Road Play Event - 30
- ✓ Keighley Play Day- Victoria Park - 526
- ✓ Haworth Park Play Event - 217
- ✓ Stockbridge Play Event - 122
- ✓ Riverside Gardens Play Event - 291

N.B: See appendix 1- Summer evaluation report

Play Forums:

There are currently five multi agency play forums operating across each area of the District. Attendees at Keighley Play Forum include: Early Childhood Services (Play Team), Ward Councillors, Ward Officers, Housing Officers, Youth Service, Children's Centres, Eccleshill Adventure Playground (outreach), Your Sporting Chance (Keighley Cougars), Community Development Workers, Sports and Leisure, Neighbourhood Officers, Voluntary and Community sector organisations.

The aim of the Forums is to reduce duplication of play provision and enhance output by pooling resources (staff, finances etc). Sustainability is key to delivery and as such emphasis is given to:

- **Training;** Delivery of playwork training is made available in the community. Early Childhood Services provide initial playwork level 1 training, this is aimed at local people; volunteers who wish to take more of an active interest in supporting the provision. One example of this is Wesley Housing Project. 4 staff received 'Take 5 for Play' training, to support the staff to enhance their playful approach and provide them with further ideas to extend children's play opportunities.
- **Pooling resources;** existing and continued mapping of service denotes where resources can be better utilised to the benefit of the community. Play Pods, containers full of resources, have been in the District for some time, yet not being made fully accessible by the community. The forum aims to reverse this by either moving the pods to a better location and implementing cross-sector delivery or bolting other services onto existing locations to make them work better. The forum approach has enabled better working relationships between agencies and this has led to the development of new play team provision in areas such as Silsden and Stockbridge, as well as support with staffing at some existing open access sessions.



A Play Forum network event was held in Keighley in January 2014, celebrating existing play provision in the area and working with participants to develop partnership working and commitment to play in the future. There are two further network events planned for this year; a district wide event will be held at Richard Dunns on 3rd February 2015 and a follow up event in Keighley on 19th March 2015 at Central Hall. Both events will run 8.30-12pm followed by lunch and networking.

Pods and Open Access sessions:

Seven pods and open access sessions were in operation across Keighley, with 167 sessions being delivered. Over the three quarters 1185 individual children accessed pods and open access provision. Of these 366 were new children who hadn't accessed the provision prior to quarter 3.

| Play Pod | Number of sessions (April – Dec 2014) | Number of individual children | Number of new children quarter 3 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fell Lane | 25 | 148 | 24 |
| Bracken Bank | 30 | 133 | 59 |
| Oxenhope Forest School Pod | 21 | 279 | 86 |
| Hainworth / Parkwood | 33 | 253 | 48 |
| Braithwaite | 26 | 207 | 104 |
| Silsden | 28 | 255 | 86 |
| Wesley House | 4 | 20 | 13 |

Further pod sessions are delivered independently by partners at Eastwood and Holycroft Primary Schools in Keighley, and the Keighley Play Rangers, Youth Service and Your Sporting Chance provide a range of other open access options.

Holiday Play Schemes:

Bradford's 'Holiday Play & Activity Schemes' (HPAS) provide a number of exciting and positive play opportunities for children and young people throughout the district, with the intention of giving all those who engage in schemes, a safe and stimulating environment in which to spend their school holidays.

The 2014 Bradford HPAS programme saw 65 schemes running throughout the Bradford District during the July - September school Summer Holiday break. Of these 65 schemes, 12 are running in the Keighley district.

The Play Team now supports these holiday play schemes to provide high quality play opportunities through the roll out of the 'All to Play for' Quality Assurance standards scheme using 'The First Claim' as an assessment framework, similar to the way in which we work with childcare providers (see below).



Play Support:

Across Keighley the team have worked with a total of 8 settings this quarter to improve quality through the First Claim Framework, including 4 holiday play schemes registered with the Community Play and Activities Development Unit. 8 play support visits were completed in total.

Forest Schools:

Forest School sessions are ongoing in Oxenhope throughout the spring and summer months. 21 forest schools sessions were delivered here between April and October, with 279 individual children attending. A member of the Play Team in Keighley is undertaking level 3 Forest School training, meaning that all of the team in Keighley will hold Level 3 Forest School qualifications.

Forest Schools is also offered to schools through our recently developed 'play in schools' programme.

Play partners:

12 vulnerable children have been supported to access mainstream play and leisure provision through the play partners' project during this nine month period. 5 settings have been supported through the project to develop their skills and confidence to include vulnerable children.

Play in Schools:

A menu of play related support options has recently been developed as a means to provide support to schools in the future. Within the last 3 quarters (April – December 2014) The Play Team in Keighley has worked with Holycroft School to promote the Play agenda. Holycroft have benefitted from 4 play sessions aimed at supporting a group of year 5/6 Eastern European children and their peers with transition.

Pyramid Clubs – Support will be available to develop these as part of the schools offer in the future. Evaluation of a pilot project in Bradford West has shown positive results with the children increasing self confidence, attendance and improved attainment levels. A full evaluation report has been produced and is available on request.

Training and qualifications:

In house training has been delivered through Out of School Leaders and Managers Network meetings in Keighley with 9 settings attending. Topics included:

- Outdoor Play
- Transition



In addition, a Take 5 for Play courses has been delivered in Keighley at Wesley Housing Project. 4 individuals received a level one accreditation as a result of this. There is a Take 5 for Play course currently being delivered in Keighley for settings through the training prospectus, with 12 participants attending.

Via the workforce development prospectus BCEP are currently running level 2 & a top up to level 3 Forest schools training to practitioners across the Bradford district.

Finally, 20 Practitioners across the Bradford district signed up to do the Level 3 Certificate / Diploma in Playwork training course which began September 2013 and is due to finish in March 2015.

NB: For full evaluation see Appendix 2 – 9 month monitoring report

3.2 Priority 2. - Address risk and promote resilience in children and young people including vulnerable groups

Free play is what children and young people do when they are doing what they choose, in their own way, for their own reasons. According to the Playwork Principles “Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development of individuals and communities.” All of our open access provision runs to these principles, and as a Play Team we encourage our settings and partners to adopt these too.

Risk is a necessary part of child development, if we eliminate risk from children’s play we are restricting children’s freedom and their ability to cope with other factors affecting their lives. Play-deprived children and young people are likely to be:

- timid
- risk-averse
- wary of new experiences
- lacking in social skills
- self-centred
- clingy
- in poor health
- lacking in confidence
- lacking in creativity

Research evidence shows that free play enables children and young people to:

- Make choices
- Measure and extend their capabilities
- Test boundaries and explore risks
- Sample new experiences
- Explore the world
- Develop social skills
- Learn respect for other people
- Develop independence



- Grow up fit and healthy
- Develop self-esteem, mental well-being and resilience
- Be creative and solve problems.

The Play Team and the Play Strategy support services to encourage children to develop natural resilience and learn to manage risk in an age-appropriate way. This actively promotes confidence, self esteem, social and communication skills, problem solving and independence - skills which will help children and young people in other aspects of their lives including school.

Much of the work undertaken in the district is based on understanding needs associated with specific areas, groups and individuals and identifying gaps in current provision. Primarily a focus for 5-11 year olds however, older children classed as 'play-deprived' benefit from this approach as part of a developing service aimed across the 0 to 19 agenda.

The Play Partnership has begun to develop specific measures aimed at demonstrating the 'impact' of the work being carried out. These measures provide an opportunity to demonstrate the beneficial effects on individuals in terms of confidence and self esteem etc (resilience).

NB: For the impacts measured across our open access provision in Keighley see appendix 3 – POD evaluation report

3.3 Priority 3. - Provide access to 'holistic' support for vulnerable children, young people and families

The Play Strategy advocates the need for all children to experience free play in a rich and stimulating play environment. We work together to remove barriers for vulnerable children and families to access play and in so doing foster children's wellbeing, healthy growth and capacity to learn. The following elements of work are implicit in supporting this process across the Keighley area:

Play Partners - works specifically with vulnerable children across the district in order to help them gain access to mainstream activities. This includes children with disabilities, LAC, traveller children etc. A new project has recently been piloted in partnership with Public Health which aims to address obesity in the Bradford District by targeting children referred directly from the school nursing team. The project – Healthy Active Play Partners (HAPP) – uses the same model as play partners to encourage children to take part in physically active play, as well as offering advice on diet and nutrition.

Family Support role - The Family Outreach team work with the Play team offering parenting and family support to vulnerable children and families.

Equality & Access role – Again Equality and Access workers are available to work with teams to promote inclusive practice and offer advice to partners.



Wesley Housing Project - The Play Team delivered 'Take 5 for Play' training to staff at the project. 4 members of staff received the Level 1 qualification. The team also delivered play sessions to support children living in the unit.

3.4 Priority 4. - That all children and young people can participate in planning and delivery of play services:

Participation is at the heart of the new Play Strategy which advocates the need for free play. By free play, we mean all those pursuits that actively engage children and young people as thinkers and doers, and that are:

- Freely chosen by children and young people;
- Undertaken simply for the fun of doing them;
- At all times under their own control.

Therefore, all of the activities described above actively promote the stance of children and young people themselves determining what they wish to do. We work with organisations and practitioners to involve children and young people in the development, delivery and evaluation of play services. In addition we will encourage service providers to offer a comprehensive programme of activities and resources, including training, to enable organisations to build better relationships with children and encourage sustainable provision.

Examples of this include:

LAC consultation events – Working with the Children in Care Council to actively promote LAC children's involvement in the design and planning of services they receive.

Play Training delivery to Foster carers & Social Workers – promoting the benefits of risky play activities to children's learning and development.

Out of School Club Network Meetings – opportunities to network, share good practice and access training opportunities.

Evaluation questionnaires – are undertaken against all activities to determine the impact of the work and to gain knowledge of what children liked to do.

Community Consultations – are carried out with other agencies to determine and inform new provision, and to involve children in other decisions which affect them.

Interview panels – Children and parent interview panels are used during recruitment processes.

NB: For an overview of participatory activities see appendix 4

3.2.5 Future activities:

Quality Mark – the play quality mark has begun to be rolled out across all open access provision in the district, starting with the holiday play and activities schemes, and also offered to registered childcare providers (OOSC). A presentation/network event will be



planned for next financial year to celebrate the achievements of those settings who receive an award through the kite mark process.

Holiday activities – Holiday activities will be delivered across the district through the Easter, spring bank and the summer period. Plans to hold a community play event in each ward of Keighley during the summer are underway.

Work in schools – a menu of support options have been developed and will be delivered as a key strategy over the forthcoming years.

Play Partner provision – Play Partners children continue to access all of our open access provision, in addition to receiving support to access other mainstream play provision locally. The aim is to increase capacity to enable more vulnerable children and young people to access local provision.

HAPP – roll out of the Healthy Active Play Partner Project following evaluation of the pilot. See 3.2.3.

Network days – promotion of current play forum agendas, partnership working, commitment to play, and links with schools. Two events planned for 3/2/15 (District) and 19/3/15 (Keighley).

Forest School Strategy – a new strategy has been developed for the period 2014 to 2016.

Parks Service – will continue to manage and maintain existing fixed play provision as well as working with children and community groups to consult, design and secure funding to improve fixed play areas across the district. A future project includes involvement in the steering group for development of Braithwaite Play Area.

Pods

Existing provision will continue to be delivered and will be reviewed regularly. A working group has also been set up to progress requests from the community in Stockbridge for community and play activities, in partnership with the area office, Strong close nursery and children's centre, youth service and police. A steering group has been developed and meets regularly to further the development of the existing fixed play area in Braithwaite, with a potential adventure play ethos.

The Play team will continue to work with partners through the play forums to ensure sustainability of existing play provision, and to address any gaps in provision identified by the mapping exercise.

Pop up shops – BCEP have been commissioned by ECS to deliver Pop up Shops. A number of mobile scrap shops ran at events across the district over summer, in addition to the town centre Pop up Shop. A Keighley pop up shop venue is planned for February Half Term.



4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial issues.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks and governance issues arising.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no legal issues arising.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 The work of the play agenda actively contributes improving communities and reducing anti social behaviour.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 Article 31 of the Human Rights Act stipulates children's right to play. This is supported by articles 12 (right to be consulted) and 13 (right to freedom and assembly).

7.6 TRADE UNION

None

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 The work of the play agenda is district wide.



7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

- Play and Playwork activities and priorities are now included in Ward plans.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For members to note and comment on the content of this report.

11. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Event evaluation report, Keighley.
- Appendix 2 – 9 month monitoring report, Keighley.
- Appendix 3 – Pod and Open Access evaluation report, Keighley.
- Appendix 4 – Participatory activities.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.



Appendix 1:

Summer Evaluation Report

Throughout the summer the play team have worked in partnership on events both district wide and in constituency areas. At the events the play team carried out surveys in order to gauge the satisfaction of both children and parents attending the events. The survey also identifies improved outcomes for children and young people.

District wide events include; Big City Play Day, National Play Day and the Looked after Children event.

National Play Day

National Play Day took place on 6th August 2014 at Baildon Recreation Ground. The event was held in partnership with agencies across Bradford with CPADU taking the lead. The event was a huge success bringing together children of all ages.

The surveys carried out were with both adults and children and young people. Of the people surveyed 73% of them really enjoyed coming to the event and 5% enjoyed coming to the event. 59% of the children surveyed said that they had learnt a new skill at the event. 29% of children said that they had made new friends and 44% said that they had learnt new games. 49% of children interviewed said that they had been problem solving and been involved in team work activities.

Events across the district

Events across Bradford West

| Name of event | Purpose of event | No. of children |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Victoria park | Community event | 120 |
| Victoria park | Play event | 151 |
| Lister park | Play event | 231 |
| Spencer rd | Community event | 249 |
| Horton park | Community event | 120 |
| Lady Hill park | Play day event | 120 |
| Frizinghall fun day | Community event | |
| Lower Grange fun day | Opening of new playground | 240 |
| | | |



Events across Bradford East

| Name of event | Purpose of event | No. of children |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Peel Park Play Day | Play celebration | 196 |
| Parkside Community Event | Promote pod | 20 |
| The Delpth Play Day | Play celebration | 145 |
| Eccelshill Fair | Community cohesion | 50 |
| Lapage Primary School Community Event | Community cohesion | 0 |
| Street Life Event | Community cohesion | 25 |
| Fagley Summer Camp | Play celebration | 37 |

Events in Keighley

| Name of event | Purpose of event | No. of children |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| East Riddlesden Hall | Children's Festival | 198 |
| Braithwaite Play Event | | 134 |
| Ashbourne Rd Event | | 30 |
| Keighley Play Day | | 526 |
| Haworth Park Event | | 217 |
| Stockbridge Event | | 122 |
| Riverside Gardens Ilkley Event | | 291 |

Events across Bradford South

| Name of event | Purpose of event | No. of children |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Wibsey | Play Day | 438 |
| Woodside | Play Day | 98 |
| Scholemoor | Play Day | 82 |



| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Sutton | Play Day | 76 |
| Queensbury | Play Day | 132 |
| Holmewood CC | Community Fun Day | 301 |
| Bierley CC | Community Fun Day | 124 |
| Wyke CC | Play Day | 103 |
| Great Horton Festival | Community Festival | 180 |

Events in Shipley

| Name of event | Purpose of event | No. of children |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Cottingley Gala | Community Event | 300 |
| Baildon Carnival | Community Event | 300 |
| Grange Park Burley | Play Day | 174 |
| Jenny Lane | Play in Park | 143 |
| Menston CC Event | Children Centre Fun Day | 92 |
| Owlet CC Event | Children Centre Fun Day | 50 |
| Dallam Ave | Play in Park | 28 |
| Baildon Play Day | Play Day | 1174 |
| Temple Rhyding | Play in Park | 33 |
| Emerge Event | Community Event | 70 |
| Claremont Park | Play Day | 71 |
| Wycliffe Gardens | Play Day | 33 |
| Buck Woods | Woodland Play | 45 |



Keighley 9 month monitoring report
April – December 2014

Play Support

Across Keighley the team have worked with a total of 4 OOSC settings this quarter to improve quality through the First Claim Framework. 4 play support visits were completed.

HPAS

4 holiday playschemes registered with CPADU were supported through the first claim quality standard, with 4 visits completed. We are continuing to offer training to HPAS schemes to complete the basic framework and undertake the first claim. 7 schemes have attended training so far.

OOSC Leaders and Managers Network Meetings

5 OOSC Leaders and Managers Network Meetings have taken place in Keighley in the past nine months, with a maximum of 9 settings attending. Themes were outdoor play and transition.

Pods and Open Access sessions

Seven pods and open access sessions were in operation across Keighley, with 167 sessions were delivered. 509 individual children have accessed pods and open access in quarter 1, with 240 being new children. 324 individual children accessed pods and open access sessions in quarter 2 with 39 being new children. 352 individual children accessed pods and open access sessions in quarter 3 with 87 being new children. Further pod sessions are delivered independently by partners at Eastwood Primary School, Keighley.

| Name of pod | No. of sessions | | | No. of individual children | | | No. of new children | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----|----|----------------------------|-----|----|---------------------|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 |
| Fell Lane | 8 | 10 | 7 | 64 | 54 | 30 | 14 | 7 | 3 |
| Forest Schools Oxenhope | 9 | 10 | 2 | 93 | 110 | 76 | 24 | 54 | 8 |
| Hainworth Wood/Parkwood | 13 | 10 | 10 | 114 | 75 | 64 | 33 | 13 | 2 |
| Braithwaite | 9 | 11 | 6 | 60 | 87 | 60 | 60 | 40 | 4 |
| Bracken Bank | 11 | 10 | 9 | 36 | 41 | 56 | 26 | 16 | 17 |
| Silsden | 11 | 10 | 7 | 129 | 88 | 38 | 70 | 11 | 5 |
| Wesley House | 3 | 1 | | 13 | 7 | | 13 | 0 | |

Although we offer a universal provision our play pods and open access sessions are often run in response to a variety of needs within the local community. Below are some specific examples of how the sessions are targeted and aim to support vulnerable children.

Fell Lane – This pod supports a number of children through the play partner project but also has children attending independently who have complex needs, behavioural needs and other additional needs who are not through play partners and are supported in to the group with no additional staff. Social housing provider Yorkshire housing identified a lack of provision in the area for their tenants through consultation with local residents, so the pod is also addressing a gap in provision.

Bracken Bank – this pod currently supports two children from play partners, one of whom is a



wheel chair user and does require quite a lot of support from staff. The group supports many other vulnerable children with additional needs and children from a women's refuge. The pod is situated in an economically deprived area of Keighley with high levels of social housing.

Oxenhope – This pod is in a rural area with very little open access opportunities for children to attend without parental supervision. This pod supports children from the play partner project and a number of other children with additional needs. The session also supports the local oosc to include all their children once a week. Hainworth – This pod is located in an economically deprived area with high levels of social housing. There is limited outdoor space to play due to new housing developments, and the area has been identified as a priority area by the ward partnerships due to high levels of antisocial behaviour - the session began as a targeted group for an identified number of children in the area.

Braithwaite – This pod is located in the centre of one of Keighley's largest estates. We were asked to develop some play provision in this area in response to a consultation with local residents about safe places for children to play in their local community. This consultation was part of a bid to develop an existing play area and also look at new options. In addition the local children's centre identified high numbers of over fives attending their holiday stay and play sessions.

Silsden - This pod is in a rural area with very little open access opportunities for children to attend without parental supervision. Children feel like this pod is a safe place to meet up with their friends This pod supports children from the play partner project and a number of other children with additional needs. The session also supports the local oosc to include all their children once a week.

Wesley House – This session is run at a housing unit for families fleeing domestic violence. This is a closed session for children living within the unit.

Forest Schools

Weekly open access forest school sessions at Oxenhope closed for winter after October half term, meaning only 2 sessions in quarter 3. In total 21 forest schools sessions were delivered here between April and October, with 279 individual children attending. For numbers attending each quarter please see above. SM is undertaking level 3 Forest School training, meaning that all of the team in Keighley will hold Level 3 forest school qualifications.

One off Events

Seven 'one off' events in Keighley were supported by the play team during this period, including National Play Day/ Week events, Keighley Children's Festival, pod launches and community play days. In total 1518 children across Keighley attended one of these play events.

Play in schools

Holycroft Primary School in Keighley have had 4 practical play sessions to help support children with transition within the school. 20 children were involved in these play sessions.

Play Partners

Twelve vulnerable children have had contact to access mainstream play and leisure provision through the play partners' project in the last 9 months. 5 settings have been supported through the project to develop their skills and confidence to include vulnerable children. 17 new referrals were received and 14 home visits completed.

Training

Three 'Take 5 for Play' courses were delivered with 21 participants in total. First Claim Quality Standard training was offered to all holiday playschemes registered with CPADU, 7 Keighley settings attended during this period.



Area updates and new project developments

| Area | Progress update |
|----------|---|
| Keighley | <p>Keighley Play Forums are continuing. The forum partners have been working together to plan and organise a follow up “All to Play For” network event continuing on from the success of last years event that took place in January. The event will target schools, local councillors and community partners which will go ahead in Quarter 4 – uptake for the event is good so far. Young people from our open access sessions are involved in the planning, presentation and delivery of the event.</p> <p>Ward partnership meetings attended and enquiries made RE attending area committee.</p> <p>A pod is available for provision at Stockbridge in partnership with Rainbow children’s centre. Advertisement for session ongoing and links made with community organisations to source volunteers to support the project. An event is planned for February half term with community partners.</p> <p>The pod running at Bracken Bank is now running in partnership with the Youth Service and provides a transition session working with children across the age ranges.</p> <p>Oxenhope Forest Schools has closed for the winter months after 2 successful sessions this quarter; Fell Lane and Hainworth/Parkwood continue to run well with access to indoor and outdoor space.</p> <p>Basic play training was provided to staff at Wesley Housing Project. The leaders and managers sessions are ongoing and proving successful.</p> |



Pod and Open Access Evaluation Results April - Dec 2014-2015
Nine month report

A Play Pod is a shipping container stocked with loose parts and resources for play. They are intended as a community base from which to provide open access play sessions. Further open access play sessions run from youth and community centres and from parks and open spaces where there is no pod. Staff transport resources to these on a weekly basis in order to facilitate play opportunities for children in the local area.

Open access means that children aged 5+ (and under 5's supervised by parents/carers) are able to attend without pre-booking, and can come and go as they please, providing an opportunity to 'play out' in a safe environment supervised by qualified play workers and take part in a wide range of quality play activities. Typical play activities include den building, using tools, arts and crafts, elemental play, sports, games and using natural resources. Activities are determined by the children's interests and are always child centred.

Some sessions are delivered solely by Play Team staff with or without support of volunteers. Other sessions are delivered in partnership with other agencies including schools, children's centres, voluntary and community organisations, and other council departments such as the Youth Service and Community Play and Activities Development Unit. Many of these multiagency sessions are now coordinated by the Play Team through the area play forums.

In the last week of each quarter (June, September and December 2014) a survey was carried out with children attending the play sessions that week, to determine the outcomes for children as a result of attending a pod. Six different play sessions ran in Keighley during this time, attended by children aged between 5 and 15 years (target age 5-11). Reports were produced for each quarter showing percentage figures for each question. The raw data for all quarters has been combined to create a nine month percentage report.

Results for Keighley

229 children were surveyed.

Satisfaction

77% of children surveyed said they always liked the play sessions, 17% answered most of the time, 6% said sometimes.

When asked 'what do you like about the session' common answers included:

- ❖ Lots to do
- ❖ Playing with friends
- ❖ Playing cool games
- ❖ Burning stuff and roasting marshmallows
- ❖ Using the tools
- ❖ Freedom!



- ❖ Freedom to play with who we want outside
- ❖ Playing outside
- ❖ Making things
- ❖ You can do whatever you want
- ❖ We get to play
- ❖ Meeting new friends
- ❖ The staff are nice
- ❖ Get to do things I can't do at home
- ❖ Its different every time
- ❖ It keeps me out of trouble
- ❖ Lets us be free
- ❖ Allowed to climb trees

Making friends

Of the children surveyed 85% had made new friends at a play session. Some of the pods are based in schools and so some children said that they had not made new friends because they already knew everyone before they started attending.

Knowledge and skills

For this question children were asked what they had learnt since they started coming to the play session. Skills included; Problem solving, team work, social skills, new skills, and new games.

75% said that they had learnt about problem solving.

91% said they had learnt team work.

85% said they had learnt social skills.

83% said that they had learnt a new skill.

86% said they had learnt new games from coming to the pod sessions.

Confidence

73% of children felt that they were more confident since they started coming to the pod, 21% felt a little bit more confident, 3% answered not at all, and 3% did not respond.



Participation Activities

Play Team

Participation underpins every aspect of work we carry out within the play team, in accordance with Bradford's Play Strategy 2013 - 2016 and Bradford Children's trust Participation Policy 2014 – 16. We endeavour to provide quality play opportunities that are child led, and participation enables us to capture children's views and ensures they are able to contribute in the planning and delivery of our service.

This includes working closely with organisations and practitioners across the district to provide a wide range of play activities and opportunities, and to engage children and young people in planning, delivery and evaluation of these services.

Examples of participatory activities facilitated by the Play Team include:

- **Strategy Development**

In 2014 the Play Team undertook consultation with children and young people, parents and practitioners to inform the development of the new play strategy "All to play for". We used a range of methods including, questionnaires, discussion groups, school councils and photo boards.

The consultation highlighted a range of factors which have an effect on children's access to play and the quality of play opportunities they experience.

- **Out of School Club Network Meetings**

These meetings currently take place in Keighley, Shipley, South and East. The meetings are aimed at managers and give them an opportunity to network, access training and share good practice.

We use these meetings to consult with managers about various subjects that affect their play provision.

The plan is to develop this network further to enable us to consult with children about issues that affect them directly.

- **Open Access Play Sessions**

The Play Team currently runs open access play sessions across the Bradford District. These sessions provide a variety of activities and resources for play.

Consultation is regularly carried out at each session with children and young people using methods such as graffiti walls, using digital technology, wish lists, suggestion boxes and verbal discussions. This determines what activities take place at the pod and how the pod is run.



- **Children's evaluation questionnaires**

A survey is carried out quarterly with all children that attend open access sessions within a specific week. The survey covers outcomes for children as a result of attending the sessions. This enables us to evaluate the success of the sessions and identify any areas of improvement based on children's views.

A similar evaluation approach is used when we support or deliver events district wide.

- **Play Support**

As part of our play support package we work alongside practitioners to evaluate the activities in a fun and playful manner. We model different ways of consultation at the end of each play session so the staff can develop new skills around participation.

This enables the staff within the setting to evaluate their own practice and ensures that children are fully involved in the planning of activities.

- **Children's and parent interview panels**

The Play Team when interviewing new staff members use children and parent panels to help in the process of interviewing. This gives service users an opportunity to influence decisions and have ownership over the service they use.

- **Play Partners**

When carrying out a home visit with a new user to the Play Partner project we use children and parent personal detail forms. The children's form in particular gives them a chance to tell us what they would like to happen throughout the Play Partner support process. This also gives the child an opportunity to have an active involvement in decisions that affect them directly.

As part of our Play Partners project we carry out evaluation forms with children, parents/carers and the provision we have supported throughout the process.

The questionnaires enable us to evaluate our work and to see whether we can improve the project for future users.

- **Community Consultation**

We work in partnership with other organisations such as Community Centres, Children's Centres, In Communities and schools in carrying out consultation to support projects, and to gauge opinion on issues that are affecting local areas. Examples of this are community cohesion, living conditions and anti-social behaviour



- **Developing New Provision in Areas of Need**

We work in partnership with community organisations through the Play Forums and the Ward Co-Coordinator meetings to identify gaps in provision and ward priorities.

The Play Team have worked with school councils to develop consultation activities to share with their peers. This gives us insight into children's views and opinions. This helps us develop provision which is tailored to the needs of children and young people within that area.

- **Looked after Children's Brunches**

We work in partnership with the Children in Care Council, the Adoption and Fostering Team and local Children's and Family Centres across the Bradford District.

We support Looked after Children's Brunches which take place across Bradford for children aged 0-13 years old.

Aims

- To increase the range and quality of play opportunities available to looked after children.
- To give looked after children under 11 the opportunity to evaluate service delivery, and to contribute to decisions which affect them.
- To increase the confidence of foster carers when playing with their children.
- Provide a network opportunity for foster carers and families.
- To identify barriers faced by foster carers when providing play opportunities for children.

We carry out the participation at these sessions by using fun and exciting participation methods such as parachute games, flip cameras and picture boards.

