

# **Report of the Early Childhood Services Manager (5-11s) to the meeting of Shipley Area Committee to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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**Subject: Update on Play Team activities in Shipley**

## **Summary statement:**

**This report provides the committee with up to date information of the delivery of services provided by the play team in the Shipley area for Quarters 1 and 2.**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

This report provides the committee with up to date information of the delivery of services provided by the play team in the Shipley area for quarters 1 &2.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Within the Council there were previously two services which provide a range of universal and targeted sports activities and play provision, these are the Community Play & Activities Development Unit, (CPADU), Sport & Leisure Services, Department for Environment and Sport and 5 - 11 Services Team, Early Childhood Services, Children's Services Department. Over the past two years the teams have developed collective approaches to delivering community activities for a wider age range which are contributing to increased community empowerment and involvement.

In November 2014, as part of ongoing budget considerations, it was proposed that the CPADU Service and the Play Team are combined to provide one single delivery system in Bradford Council for children's play, managed through Children's Services.

Combining the services avoids the risk of duplication, enables more effective deployment of staff and resources and brings increased opportunities for sharing expertise, all of which contributes to maintaining an efficient high quality single service within a reduced budget allocation.

From September 2015 - The Community Play & Development Service is part of the Education and School Improvement Service, Department of Children's Services, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The team brings together the Early Childhood Services Play Team (5-11s) with colleagues from the previous Community Play and Activities Development Unit (CPADU), Sports and Leisure Services. The new service will:

- Promote the benefits of play and play work, lead by example and ensure robust outcome monitoring to evidence the impact on children's resilience and wellbeing.
- Provide accessible play opportunities through community based play pods, holiday play and activity schemes, schools and larger events across the district
- Focus on vulnerable groups through continued delivery of targeted programmes, including support for children with SEND, Looked After Children, Traveller children, children at risk of Obesity, shy and withdrawn children in schools.
- Focus on high quality services through Quality Improvement and Play Support work. This will include continued delivery of the First Claim quality assurance scheme with all holiday and out of school providers and targeted work with registered childcare settings for school aged children that are judged by Ofsted to be inadequate or requires improvement.
- Encourage the active participation and be responsive to children and young people's voices.
- Encouraging and empowering community engagement.
- Promote high quality leadership and empowerment. Holding consultation events with LAC children and bespoke training for Social Care – Social workers and fostering and adoption workers (e.g.: benefits of risk for LAC)
- Maintain and further promote partnership working through continued facilitation of the Play Partnership Executive, supporting the Play Champion, encouraging

volunteering and high quality practice providing Take5 training, bespoke training for schools, lunchtime supervisors and transition events.

Service delivery and deployment of staff is structured and delivered across the following key areas;

**Open access, events and activities:**

- Open access (free play) provision – Parks and green spaces
- PODs
- Big City Play Day, National Play Day (Week)
- Holiday Play & Activity grant scheme
- Bingley Music Live
- Bradford Marathon
- Bradford Skyride
- Forest Schools / wild play
- Equipment hire
- Valley Parade Memorial Event
- Outings / Trips

**Play partners/play support:**

- Play Partners – working with vulnerable groups
- Play Support – work with providers/settings to improve quality play environments
- First Claim Quality Mark – kite mark for all play provision

**Schools/Skills:**

- Transition events
- Healthy School Weeks
- Reward Days
- Sports Days
- Pyramid clubs
- Bespoke Play training – to schools and wider providers across the district.

In addition, the new service will generate income through traded and commissioning arrangements.

**3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.1 The extent to which play opportunities for Shipley children are supported**

**Play Pods and events**

Open Access Play Pods are the main focus for direct play delivery; with a total of 74 sessions across six locations (see following table) with 316 children attending.

The CPDS team have also supported 10 events in partnership with other services with an overall approximate attendance of 2,650 children.

National Play Day, is the national celebration of children's play; In Bradford National Play

Day takes place at Baildon Recreational Centre on the first Wednesday of August each year. 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 1758 children and young people.

**Direct delivery of open access play sessions in Shipley, April- September 2015**

Location	Description	No. Sessions	No. Children	No. Adults
Bingley	Open Access Play Pod	9	48	-
Windhill	Open Access Play Pod	17	44	-
Wycliffe	Open Access Play Pod	4	30	-
Baildon	Open Access Play Pod	20	54	-
Denholme	Open Access Play Pod	20	49	-
Jenny Lane	Open Access Play Pod	4	91	-
Myrtle Park	One off Event	1	120	-
Denholme Foster Park	One off Event	1	66	
Baildon Carnival	One off Event	1	50	
Jenny Lane	One off Event	1	164	-
Burley Rec	One off Event	1	79	-
Wrose	One off Event	1	174	-
Burley Festival	One off Event	1	100	-
Cottingley Carnival	One off Event	1	120	-
Baildon Play Day	One off Event	1	1758	-
Baildon CC LAC event	LAC event	1	19	18

**Play Partners**

HAPP and Play Partner activities received 22 referrals for the period between April and September 2015 from the Shipley area. The Play team carried out 15 home visits to vulnerable families during this period and successfully supported 7 children into mainstream play and leisure settings.

**Play support**

The Play team have supported 6 Out of School settings and 2 holiday playschemes in Shipley, with a total of 9 support visits between April – September 2015. Out of School Managers Network meetings give the opportunity for settings to meet; the settings are consulted on the content of the meetings so appropriate advice, information and practical ideas and activities are offered. 5 settings attended the last meeting in quarter 1.

**3.2 Feedback from children and young people**

Play actively promotes confidence, self esteem, social and communication skills, problem solving and independence – skills which help children and young people in all aspects of their lives, including school.

**Open Access provision, pod evaluation**

A snapshot survey was carried out in the last week of June and September with children attending the pod sessions, to determine the outcomes for children accessing the provision. 36 children were surveyed in Shipley, the results are as follows.

76% of children surveyed said they always liked the play sessions, 22% said they liked the sessions most of the time. 2% answered sometimes.

### **Making Friends**

61% of the children surveyed in Shipley had made new friends at a pod session.

### **Knowledge and skills**

Children were asked if they had learnt any of the following from coming to the play pod sessions: Problem solving, team work, social skills, new skills, and new games.

74% of children surveyed said they had learnt problem solving.

92% said they learnt about team work at the pod sessions.

95% said that they learnt about social skills.

80% said they had learnt new skills.

75% had learnt new games at the pod sessions.

### **Confidence**

77% children said that they felt more confident since they started coming to the sessions, 13% said they felt a little bit more confident, 10% answered not at all.

### **Event evaluation**

A snapshot survey was carried out at each event with families and children completing a simple questionnaire to tell us their thoughts on the event. A total of 667 children across the district were surveyed over the summer period. Of those who took part in the survey:

79% really enjoyed the event, 21% enjoyed the event and 1% didn't enjoy the event.

Popular activities included; water slide, painting elephants, circus skills e.g. walking on stilts, spider mountain, face painting, smoothie making, football, bouncy castles, bouncy hoppers, painting, making juggling balls, junk modelling and rock climbing. Children commented that they liked that the events were outside and that they had enough to do so that they weren't bored. Parents and Carers liked that there was a wide variety of activities and that they were free.

43% of children said they had made new friends at the event.

Children and families were asked whether the children had learnt any of the following from coming to an event:

67% said they had learnt about problem solving.

81% said they had learnt about team work.

90% said they had learnt social skills.

76% said they had learnt a new skill.

60% said they had learnt a new game at an event.

70% of children had tried something new at an event.

**Comments from Parents, Carers and Children’s evaluations about the events:**

“Lots of varied activities to keep the children entertained”

“We liked everything, there was so much to do”

“Fun, varied activities - good for all ages. Friendly, helpful staff”

“So much for the kids to do with parents/ each other and easy things to enjoy on their own”

“Love it ALL”

“Free play, as in they can play however they like. They love messy play”

“Variety, atmosphere, really welcoming, loads of activities”

“Such a good idea, more please”

**4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

None

**5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

None

**6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

None

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None

**7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The work of the play team actively contributes to improving communities and reducing anti-social behaviour.

**7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

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**

The work of the play team is district wide.

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

None

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

**9. OPTIONS**

None

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Shipleigh Area Committee members are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report.

**11. APPENDICES**

None

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None