

D R A F T

FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

**'A TIME AND PLACE FOR PLAY'
A PLAY STRATEGY
FOR GUILDFORD**

2007 - 2010

Children and Young People's Play Strategy

**A STRATEGY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN'S PLAY
ACROSS GUILDFORD**



**G U I L D F O R D
B O R O U G H**

GUILDFORD PLAY STRATEGY

FOREWORD

DRAFT for Vas Kapsalis Portfolio Holder for Communications and Personnel

I am delighted to endorse the thinking behind this Play Strategy for Guildford Borough.

The United Nations Declaration of a Child's Right to Play is one which is difficult to achieve in many parts of the world. Here in Britain we are much more fortunate. We can provide safe play facilities and improve access to them. We encourage children to explore and use their imagination. This, in turn, helps them to develop social skills which will benefit them all through their lives.

In one way children are, perhaps disadvantaged in our technologically advanced British Society, although they would certainly not agree. The huge growth in media, computer games and the internet leads many children to spend far too long in solitary concentration in front of a computer screen. Whilst this improves their computer and keyboard skills it takes them away from socially interactive games in the open air with their friends. As later in life, children need to learn to balance their activities in a sensible and creative way. Here, we can help.

The Strategy has been produced by the Cultural Services and Parks & Countryside Service Units, in conjunction and consultation with our partners and stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to those involved for the excellent work that has been undertaken, both in this, and in developing and enhancing the opportunities and activities for play for children and young people in the Borough.

Vas Kapsalis

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G U I L D F O R D
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PLAY STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 2003 and 2004 Guildford Borough Council adopted three separate strategies dealing with different aspects of play and facilities for young people.

1. Play Development Strategy for Guildford Borough
2. Guildford Borough Council Fixed Equipment Playground Strategy
3. Guildford Borough Youth Facilities Strategy

Whilst each of these strategies could be used separately and still achieve their aims, this would not necessarily ensure that:

- a) appropriate priority was given to each action
- b) projects were integrated where appropriate to save resources
- c) a full, clear, cross cutting agenda was produced and followed
- d) enabling partnerships, both within and externally to the Council were fully considered

It was therefore deemed appropriate to amalgamate these strategies to produce one coherent document and action plan. This will provide a framework for the development of play and youth facilities within the Borough for children and young people aged 3-18 years. It will also provide:

- a) a definition of play
- b) a case for play
- c) evidence of consultation
- d) details of current provision
- e) an action and evaluation plan

1. INTRODUCTION

a) Definition of Play

Before starting to produce a framework for play, it is important to think about and define what play actually is:

The definition it is proposed to follow for this document follows that produced by the Children's Play Council, Making the case for Play 2002:

“Children are playing when they are doing what they want to do, in the way they want to and for their own reasons. Play may take place with or without other children and any adult involvement is at the invitation of the child or children”

b) Purpose

Local authorities are one of the main providers of play provision and facilities. It is important that this provision is, what is required and requested locally and is provided through a co-ordinated approach whilst making best use of resources. It is recognised by Government and associated agencies that this can be best achieved via the production of an agreed strategy and therefore each local authority has been encouraged to produce its own play strategy.

The main benefits of a Guildford Play Strategy are:

- a) to emphasise the importance of play for the well being and enjoyment of the children and young people in the Borough of Guildford
- b) to bring about new initiatives and improvements to play provision within the Borough
- c) to set out priorities for play development in a clear and rational way as identified by local people and organisations
- d) to make play opportunities more accessible
- e) to provide a local framework for achieving national and regional objectives in play development
- f) to help achieve funding from outside sources
- g) to help provide Best Value and address the issues identified in *Every Child Matters* for the children and young people of the Borough in terms of its play provision
- h) to develop guidelines for play area design

This Strategy brings together, enhances and updates the proposals and actions from three previously produced documents relating to traditional, equipped play areas, the use and value of high quality green spaces, transport and traffic issues, the link with housing, the development of cross-cutting issues as identified within the document *Every Child Matters*, play schemes and facilities for the disadvantaged and disabled.

It also identifies key Members and Officers within the Borough Council who have responsibility for play. The Strategy covers the period to 31 December 2010.

c) **Aims and objectives**

In seeking to achieve the broad aims of the Council's vision for play, the following aims and objectives have been identified:

- a) To set a framework within which play can contribute to improving the quality of community life as a whole.
- b) To widen accessibility to play in Guildford in terms of location, times of year and types of play provision with emphasis on social inclusion and a multi-agency approach.
- c) To provide advice, encourage and enable participation by all sectors of the community in play by the provision of good quality, safe and suitable facilities, services and opportunities, by supporting the efforts of committees, schools, community groups and individuals.
- d) To encourage partnerships to develop a clear protocol for working together effectively so as to deliver coherent training, advice, promotion, support and information services that build capacity and strengthen the quality, choice, accessibility and diversity of provision locally.
- e) To fund or help seek funding for sustainable play provision and initiatives that effectively meet local needs and that demonstrate the benefits of good play opportunities specifically to disadvantaged communities and disabled children and young people.

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- f) To demonstrate the importance of good play provision in Guildford through the creation and development of new and existing holiday play schemes and after school clubs.
- g) To seek to meet the 5 outcomes identified in the *Every Child Matters* document (details in section 2 of this Strategy, The Value of Play).

2. THE VALUE OF PLAY

Play is of great importance, not only to benefit children and young people's health, physical fitness and wellbeing, but to help develop relationships and social skills. This, in turn, aids learning and promotes self-confidence. In difficult times it can also help deal with trauma and promote emotional healing.

It is therefore logical that if children and young people are denied the opportunity to play, that this can have a major adverse effect on their adult life and possibly that of society as a whole.

The Director of Play England, Adrian Voce, made the following statement at the organisation's launch:

"The extent of play deprivation experienced by many children today is at least as damaging as the prevalence of junk food," he said. "Commentators and politicians on all sides are now echoing the play sector's long-held caution: unless we ensure all communities have access to well designed and maintained places to play, a large part of the child population will miss out on the fundamental part of childhood."

Children have more time available to them for play than any other activity as only one quarter of their time is spent on the school curriculum. With so many young people and so much time available to them, it makes a compelling case for well-structured and thoughtful provision.

Research has shown that children prefer play space to be visible and readily accessible, in an area that they feel is both familiar and secure. They will, however, have times when they wish to access special and secret places. It is therefore important to bear these factors in mind when considering provision.

In this respect consideration must be given to informal open spaces as well as formal play provision. According to Play England, the loss of space dedicated to play and the general decline in public open space contribute to today's children having just a ninth of the space of their compatriots of a generation ago.

A national survey, undertaken to promote Playday 2006, determined that the majority of children would prefer to play outdoors and do not have as much opportunity to do so as they would like. 72% of children surveyed said they would like to play outdoors more often, while 82% of respondents expressed a preference to play in natural spaces, such as gardens, parks and local fields, rather than in streets or car parks. In addition, 86% of children highlighted outdoor activities, such as playing out with friends, building dens and getting muddy, as more fun than computer games.

Adrian Voce, Director of Play England, commented, "What children are telling us is that they want more opportunities to play out, in stimulating natural spaces where they can have fun, be with their friends and use their imagination. It is vital for both national and local governments to take this message on board if they are to meet the play needs of today's children and young people.

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With this in mind, the quality of maintenance and provision within our parks and open spaces is as important as providing formal play opportunities. Also important is the availability of well maintained open space near to where children and young people live.

A further aspect to consider is the provision of a safe environment within our parks and open spaces. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has published a report, which shows that more than a third of children say that they feel unsafe using parks and open spaces and nearly three-quarters say that they would feel safer if parks were staffed with park keepers.

The main concerns cited by respondents to the survey, with regard to their use of parks, relate to gangs, bullies and drunken kids.

According to Richard Simmons, CABE Chief Executive, the survey reinforces the organisation's campaign to increase the number of parks staff and remove this barrier to people's enjoyment of their local green spaces.

"One of the most important factors in making parks safe and stimulating places is having staff on-site," he said. "We know that when parks are well-staffed, parents' fears are assuaged. We need to make sure that parents everywhere are happy to let their children enjoy the huge benefits that playing in parks can bring and that means every significant park having staff on site in daylight hours".

A recent CABE Space survey of all local authorities demonstrated that nearly 90% of managers had experienced a drop in anti-social behaviour in parks that had reintroduced on-site staff.

The Government's publication *Every Child Matters* emphasises the cross-cutting agenda role that play provides in five potential outcome areas, namely:

a) **Being Healthy**

Play has a major role in all aspects of health, social, physical, intellectual and emotional. Provision of different types of play in varying environments can provide beneficial effects in all aspects of health. It can also help to set the scene for being more physically active and healthier in later life.

b) **Staying Safe**

One of the main obstacles to access to play can be parents not allowing their children to play outside the house through fear of dangers such as strangers, bullying and traffic.

It is vital therefore that play schemes and facilities give parents confidence that these issues have been addressed as far as practically possible.

Care must be taken, however, that not all risks are designed out of play provision, as this will deny children the experience of certain decision making processes and may lead quickly to boredom and restricted self-confidence.

c) **Enjoying and Achieving**

One of the main benefits achieved from play, as in any other leisure pursuit, should be enjoyment. Providing children and young people with a range of accessible and stimulating play opportunities should give every chance to their gaining an enjoyable experience.

Allowing freedom of choice to a range of activities will also allow the opportunity to experience success and failure in many sources: socially, mentally or physically, which in turn will help to provide a sense of achievement.

d) **Making a Positive Contribution**

Involving children and young people more in various activities and decision making, can lead to them putting forward their views and ideas and contributing to helping design or improve facilities and provision. In turn, this learning and sharing experience may lead to these young people being confident and able to teach or help others, thus making a positive contribution to society.

Those that are denied these opportunities are less likely to make a positive contribution and are increasingly likely to have a negative effect on society.

e) **Economic Well-being**

Good play provision, where parents are happy to leave their children, will allow parents to go to work or undertake training, thus leading to improved economic well-being.

Also, if stimulating play can help young people become more self-confident, intelligent and socially aware, they are much more likely to contribute positively to society and improve the economic well-being of an area. Without this stimulating play, more anti-social behaviour may be experienced, leading to the opposite effect.

3. CONTEXT

a) Local

The major influences in the local context are:

- i) internal Best Value reviews for the Borough Council Directorates that contribute to play and the provision of services for children and young people. Each review has a five year action plan that includes improved provision for play
- ii) the Guildford Borough Cultural Strategy. Following a major public consultation exercise the Strategy was launched in December 2002. It contains an action plan, with 75 actions under various cross-cutting topic headings, providing a direction for culture within the Borough for a five year period. A successor Strategy to run from 1 January 2008 is in active preparation.
- iii) Guildford Community Plan. Following public consultation, the strategic direction for the Borough is driven through Guildford's Local Strategic Partnership, which developed from the Community Plan. One of the priority areas for the LSP is giving young people a voice.
- iv) the Local Development Framework. The Council is currently producing a Local Development Framework, which sets out the policies and strategic direction for future development in the Borough to 2018. It incorporates the views and aspirations of children and young people.
- v) the Open Space and Recreational Land study 2005. This has been undertaken within the Borough to help show where there are gaps in provision and thus where priorities should be for the future.

b) Regional

- i) The Regional Cultural Strategy for the South East sets guidelines that will have an impact for provision for children and young people in Guildford.
- ii) The Children and Young People's Plan for Surrey, as developed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, shows how agencies and services across the County can work together to provide improvements for children and young people. This will help to ensure the requirements of the Children Act 2004 are met.
- iii) The Early Years and Childcare Implementation Plan sets out the objectives and aims of the Early Years and Childcare services across Surrey.

c) National

- i) The most significant national document that now influences provision for children and young people is *Every Child Matters*. The requirements of this document are having a far reaching effect on how services are to be provided, both regionally and locally, requiring service providers to have a more joined-up approach to deliver its five priority outcomes for every child.

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- ii) The Children Act 2004 gives the legislative support to underpin the requirements of *Every Child Matters*, outlining the statutory duties and accountabilities for children's services. It is responsibility of the County Council to make arrangements to ensure co-operation takes place between agencies and service providers in Surrey to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

4. PROFILE OF GUILDFORD

Guildford is the County town of Surrey. It is located 30 miles to the south west of London at a point where the River Wey carves a gap through the North Downs. The Borough covers about 104 square miles and has a population of 130,717 with an extremely low unemployment rate. Guildford is an exceptionally beautiful Borough, containing rolling chalk downs, ancient woodland and a patchwork of fields and hedgerows. Approximately 70% of the Borough lies within the green belt and much of the southernmost rural parts are within the area known as the Surrey Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Guildford is known for its historic High Street with its granite setts, overhanging Guildhall clock and its view of the downs, which has remained relatively unchanged for centuries. It has one of the most successful retail centres in the country and attracts large numbers of visitors to its town centre and picturesque rural villages.

Guildford is also home to one of the finest 20th century universities – the University of Surrey. Other major educational establishments are Guildford College, the College of Law and the Academy of Contemporary Music. It also has a magnificent Cathedral.

Guildford is the regional administrative centre for the South East and a regional centre for business, education, shopping, culture and leisure. Over the past twenty years Guildford's role has changed from that of a dormitory town for London to a strong and successful commercial centre in its own right. Much of the town's new commercial development during this period has focused on the growth of the service sector. Recently the economy has been shaped by the emerging new technology sector and by its role as the centre for regional government in the south east. The relocation of the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) to Guildford in 1996, followed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) in 1999, has acted as a magnet for other regional bodies, including the University of Industry and English Heritage.

There is a wide range of sporting facilities in Guildford from privately owned health clubs to Guildford Borough Council facilities including Spectrum – one of the largest multi-facility leisure complexes in the UK. It also has two theatres, the Yvonne Arnaud and the Electric Theatre.

Guildford is located at the centre of a comprehensive communication network, which is highly accessible to UK, European and world markets. Central London is only 30 miles away and is connected to Guildford by excellent road and rail links.

Whilst the above is very positive, showing that Guildford is a vibrant and generally affluent place to live, Guildford does also contain pockets of deprivation. This can make it particularly hard for those with restricted finances and without transport in rural. Nearly all of the families living on the North Guildford estates are unable to access play. This has always been a recurring issue for the families living in these areas as the ranked difference between our most deprived and most affluent areas in Guildford is nearly 20,000 places (out of 32,482). This in itself identifies a major local issue with the wide extremes of affluence.

2001 Census Statistics for the Borough

The 2001 Census shows that the numbers of children and young people in the Borough were as follows:

| Age | Number | % of total population |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 0 - 4 | 7,069 | 5.5% |
| 5 - 7 | 4,374 | 3.4% |
| 8 - 9 | 3,037 | 2.3% |
| 10 - 15 | 8,900 | 6.9% |
| 16 - 17 | 3,162 | 2.4% |
| 18 - 24 | 13,698 | 10.6% |

95.9% of the population of the Borough were white.

14,196 (27.1%) households with dependent children

5,511 (10.5%) households with children under 5

1,885 (3.6%) lone parents with dependent children

This information, especially where it was broken down for each Ward, was used to help ensure current provision for play was adequate or new provision was planned.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5.1 Consultation/Surveys

For each of the documents forming part of this overall Strategy public consultation/surveys were undertaken to ensure the key issues were identified to allow them to be addressed.

a) **Cultural Strategy**

An extensive consultation process was undertaken to ensure, as far as practically possible, that the varied cultural views of people within the Borough were identified. This consultation included the following:

- i) questionnaires sent to approximately 400 local cultural groups and organisations
- ii) a detailed survey sent to 1,000 households within the Borough comprising the Council's Citizen's Panel
- iii) a face to face survey of 100 young people
- iv) a questionnaire on the Council's website
- v) requests for feedback through local press and radio stations
- vi) focus group work with young people and specialists within arts and sport

b) **Fixed Equipment Play Strategy**

In order to assess the existing condition of the Borough's equipped playgrounds and ascertain the composition and location of the child population, (i.e. the potential demand for play sites) two levels of survey were undertaken which formed the basis for the Strategy.

In addition to the general Strategy methodology, the Parks & Countryside Service, as part of the consultation process associated with the Best Value review, carried out an on site User Survey in 2002 recording a range of information for each site. This information was fed into the Strategy and used as basic qualitative information on a site by site and overall service basis. The Strategy also used the differing child population age groups of the Borough as a basis for establishing both current and future play equipment provision. Barriers to children's movement in respect of existing play equipment provision was not considered. But barriers to children's movement were taken into account in recommendations for new provision.

To obtain more up to date information related to the new National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standards, a survey format was devised to allow a detailed assessment of each site.

This consisted of the following:

- a) **Playground Inventory Sheet:** recording all the play equipment and ancillary items together with an assessment of their condition
- b) **Play Value Assessment Checklist:** recording a complete list of all play activities on each site and the age groups catered for by the equipment together with the play value of the equipment provided.

- c) **Playground Performance and Classification Checklist** recording a detailed analysis and assessment of the site

In addition, a **Photographic Survey** was undertaken to provide a visual record of each site.

The survey sheets and checklists were developed from other survey formats used by the NPFA and Guildford Borough Council.

Child population density and therefore demand for play space, varies locally throughout the Borough. The standard LAP, LEAP and NEAP (See Annexe 1 for definitions) should be provided for a child population density up to a maximum of 16 children per hectare (7 children per acre). This is based on an average family size of 2.36 children, 17% aged between 0 and 15 living in high density housing, up to 40 units per hectare hence:

$$40 \times 2.36 \times 17\% = 16 \text{ children per hectare}$$

Where child population exceeds 16 per hectare, the NPFA suggest either the size or quantity of provision should be increased. No guidance is given in calculating this but from a practical perspective it would seem reasonable to increase the size of facilities in proportion to child population density, where no other sites are available. Quantity however, should only be increased if there is insufficient space on any one particular site. This in turn will optimise the distribution in that area.

c) **Play Development Strategy**

The main methods of consultation for this Strategy were as follows:

- i) project evaluation forms including a section on partners feedback
- ii) customer feedback from the Citizens' Panel
- iii) compliment/complaint monitoring
- iv) Early Years and Childcare Partnership Guildford Liaison Group and Out of School Network meetings
- v) Early Years and Childcare Partnership 4-16 sub-group
- vi) Community Network meetings
- vii) South East Regional Play Association
- viii) Meetings with play providers on individual projects/issues

d) **Youth Facilities Strategy**

In order to assess the existing condition of the Borough's youth facilities and to ascertain the composition and location of the youth population (i.e. the potential demand for recreation sites) two levels of survey were undertaken which formed the basis for the Strategy.

In addition to the general Strategy methodology, the Parks & Countryside Service, as part of the consultation process associated with the Best Value Review, carried out youth focus group work to ascertain what young people wanted from parks related recreation facilities. This information, with other research was used to develop the Strategy and used as basic qualitative information on a site by site and overall service basis. The Strategy has used the differing young people population age groups of

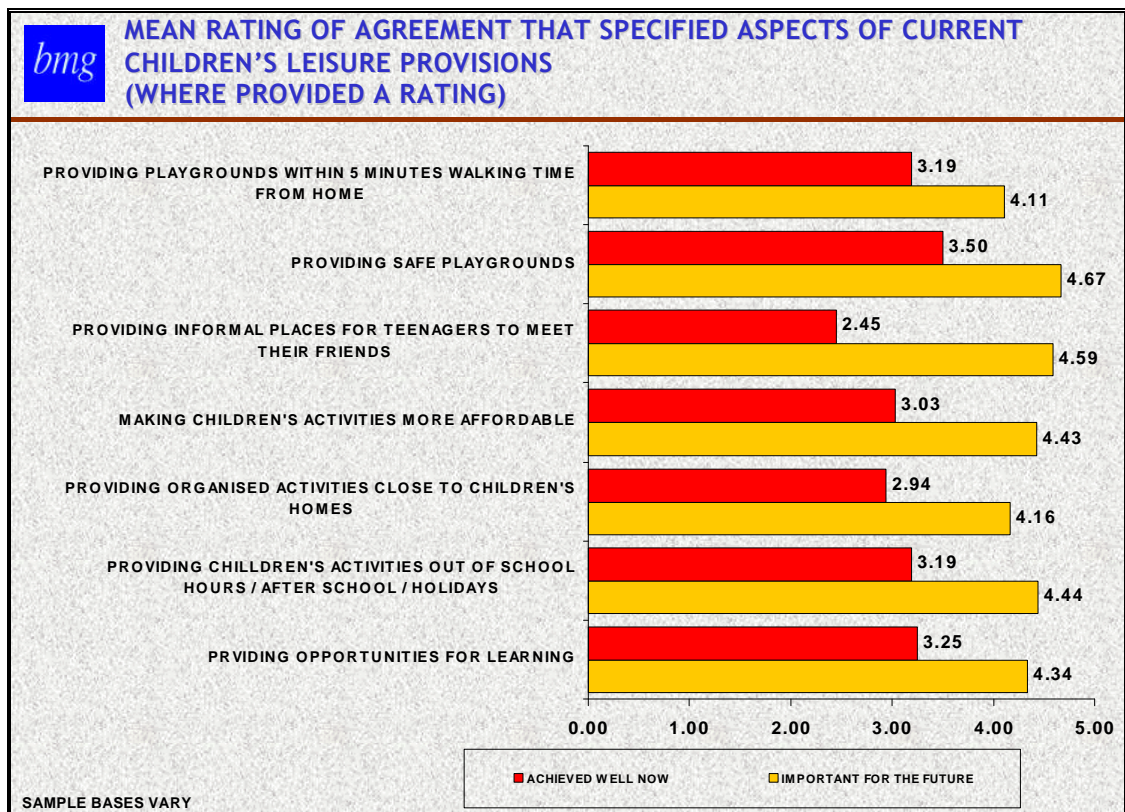
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the Borough as a basis for establishing both current and future youth recreation provision. Barriers to movement in respect of existing equipment provision was not considered. Barriers to movement were considered in recommendations for new provision.

6. SURVEY/CONSULTATION RESULTS

a) Cultural Strategy

As part of the Citizen’s Panel Survey undertaken in January 2002 for the Cultural Strategy, residents were asked how they viewed current provision for children’s leisure and what they felt was most important for the future. The full results are shown in the following chart:



The difference between the figures for current achievement and importance for the future identify the main areas on which to concentrate. In this case, residents identified the following priorities:

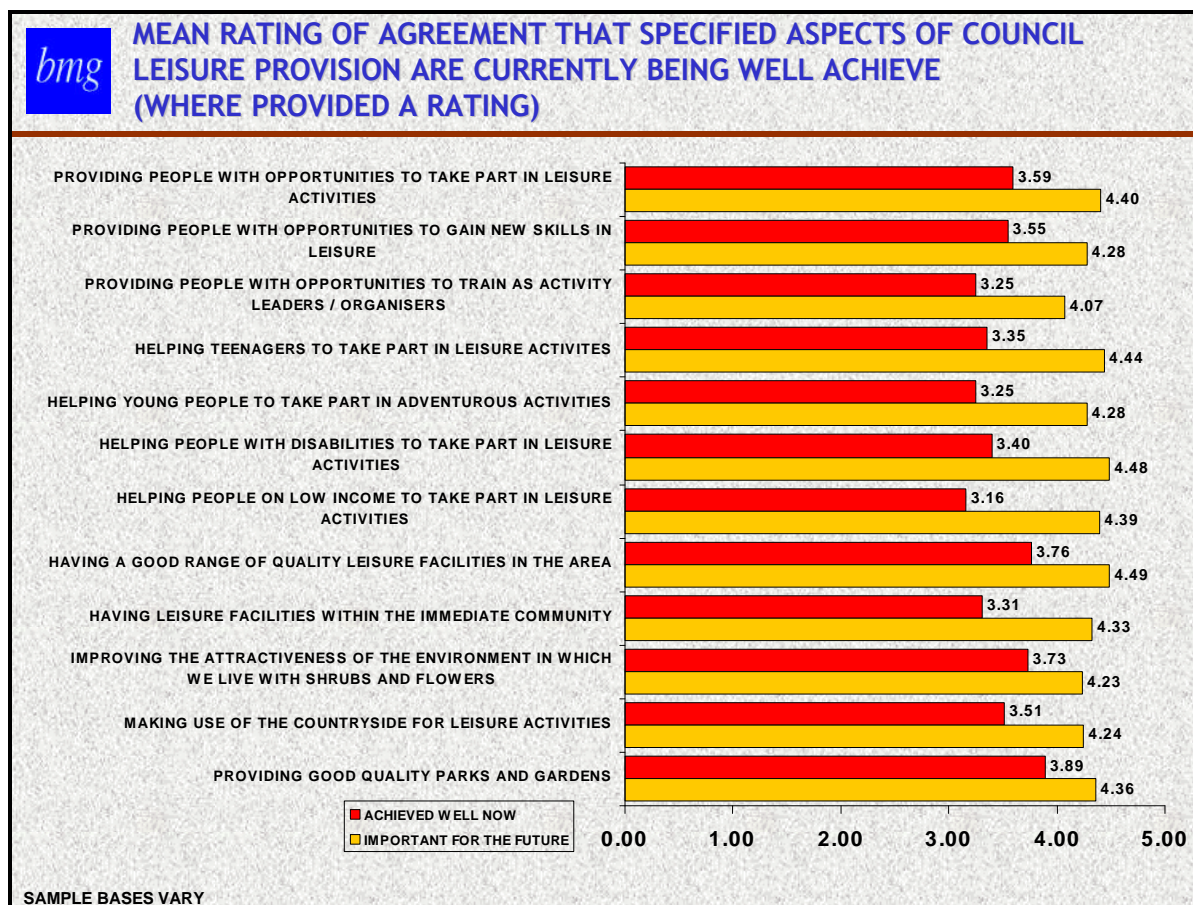
- i) providing informal places for teenagers to meet
- ii) making children’s activities more affordable
- iii) providing children’s activities out of school hours, after school and during holidays
- iv) providing safe playgrounds in the future

In a similar way, residents were also asked to what extent they agreed with a list of general leisure policies for the Borough Council, both in terms of activities that are achieved well now and those which are important for the future. The results, which can be seen in the following chart, show that the following priorities should be concentrated upon:

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- i) helping people on low incomes to take part in leisure activities
- ii) helping teenagers to take part in leisure activities
- iii) helping people with disabilities to take part in leisure activities

Again, the concerns of residents in relation to leisure provision clearly focus upon the young, disadvantaged and disabled groups.



The issues raised specific to young people and requiring action points to be addressed through the Cultural Strategy, were as follows:

- i) encourage the participation of young people and youth organisations in cultural activities and courses as a valuable tool in social development and integration
- ii) encourage the development of affordable pricing structures to cultural activities for young people and provide activities at no cost where possible and appropriate
- iii) consult with young people regarding cultural provision in the Borough
- iv) encourage all sports clubs to form junior sections and encourage the formation of new sports clubs in the Borough where there is clearly unmet demand

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- v) influence the introduction of the Connexions scheme in the Borough
- vi) continue to provide funding for children’s play schemes throughout the Borough
- vii) produce a Strategy for children’s and young people’s formal play facilities within the Borough
- viii) produce a Strategy for skateboarding/BMX provision within the Borough

b) Fixed Equipment Play Strategy

The results of the public surveys undertaken at the individual playgrounds, have been included in the assessment of each site to be found in the Fixed Equipment Playgrounds Document (3of 4) “Playground Overview” . These results have helped to provide a broad assessment of each site and point toward the action that needs to be taken to overcome problem issues.

c) Play Development Strategy

The results of this consultation process led to the identification of a number of issues, namely:

| Issue | Where consultation was received |
|---|--|
| Closure of SPLASH activity programme for 10-16 year olds | SPLASH AGM |
| The extension of FISH (Fun in the Summer Holidays) into the Easter holidays | Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| The closure of play schemes in North Guildford and the lack of voluntary committees to run them | Stoke Ward Community Network Lunch – February 2002 |
| The need to encourage people on low incomes to participate in leisure activities | Guildford Borough Council Citizens’ Panel – January 2002 |
| The need to provide more based leisure facilities to alleviate some of the main barriers to participation such as timing and location | Guildford Borough Council Citizens’ Panel – January 2002 |
| Development of play schemes in the rural areas of Guildford Borough | Play Strategy Consultation Event – January 2003 |
| Working with Parish Councils in the development of holiday play provision | Play Strategy Consultation Event – January 2003 |
| The development of family fun days in local areas | Overview and Scrutiny Committee study group |
| The provision of an annual After School Club Grant like annual Holiday Play scheme Grant | Overview and Scrutiny Committee study group |
| Inclusion training for play worker | Out of schools network meeting |

d) Youth Facilities Strategy

This Strategy partly relied on the results of other consultations eg. the Cultural Strategy’s Citizens’ Panel results and partly on its own consultation process to guide its aims and objectives. The results of the former have already been reported, the results of the latter consultation are as follows:

Youth Focus Group Summary and Conclusions

The Youth Focus Group conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- i) a relatively small sample of Guildford Borough Council 'youth' has indicated a difference in motivation and attitudes towards parks and open spaces
- ii) the 16-17 year olds find parks and open spaces far more personally relevant than the 18-20 year olds
- iii) the 18-20 year old age group appears on this evidence to display a cynical and/or negative attitude to the idea of parks and open spaces as relevant to their needs, although this was possibly an effect of the 'focus group' environment
- iv) despite the differences in the two age groups, however, on one key aspect, the two groups displayed very similar needs, that being a place to "hang out" or socialise
- v) the 16-17 year olds feel that this should be located within a park and open space, possibly Stoke Park

whereas:

- i) the 18-20 year olds are less concerned whether this is located in a park or not. The key need is for it to be centrally located.

In respect of the areas for possible future funding and or improvement within Guildford Borough Parks and Open Spaces, as suggested by the 16-17 year olds:

- i) improve safety and security (for females) within parks and open spaces through:
 - a) more and/or improved lighting
 - b) less seclusion
 - c) help buttons and/or emergency points
- ii) make more sports facilities available particularly in Stoke Park and specifically at no charge
- iii) the 18-20 year old age group were unwilling or unable to suggest any particular area for improvement within Parks and Open Spaces. The Castle Grounds is probably the only one ever primarily, purely because it is in Guildford town centre

Interestingly, however, the parks and open spaces used by 16-17 year olds appear to be driven by two main things:

- i) they are centrally located, e.g. close to town and shops
- ii) they are close to home

The focus group findings suggest that the 16-17 year olds are not all aware or familiar with the full range of parks and open spaces and their facilities that are available in Guildford Borough.

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Furthermore, communicating and promoting Guildford's parks and open spaces to this target audience needs to be sensitive to the different needs and/or perceptions of the relevance of parks and open spaces to this audience.

7. EXISTING LOCAL PLAY AND YOUTH PROVISION**a) COMMUNITY ORGANISED PLAY PROVISION**

A variety of play and youth provision exists across the Borough primarily in small pockets of communities, usually based in schools, community halls or local churches. Activities provided are similar across many of the playschemes organised and delivered by schools, parent groups and churches, often providing arts, crafts, sports, games and with some offering trips and offsite visits. The target audience for these schemes is often the immediate catchment area or accommodating school. The average age catered for is 5-11 year olds. Alongside this provision there are a few breakfast and after school clubs providing extended hours to the school day where a combination of childcare and playscheme type activities are delivered. Similarly, these tend to be inclusive of those attending the specific school where they are held. Catering for the under 5s falls mainly on the number of pre-school playgroups, nurseries and mother and toddler groups across the Borough. The playgroups and nurseries primarily cater for the 3-5 years age group, offering sessional childcare of less than 2 hours at a cost typically around £7-£10 per session. A number of community based mother and toddler groups operate across the Borough which tend to be informal, part time, self help groups of parents and carers that meet locally with their children to offer advice, support and friendship. Sessions are by and large charged at a contributory rate of £1-£2 per session making them inclusive to all families. Both of these types of groups largely operate from local church and community halls.

Alongside these local providers are a number of key organisations and schemes, which are able to cater for a wider audience and larger numbers through either the school holidays, or in the afternoons after school.

FISH

FISH (Fun in the Summer Holidays) and FISH @ Easter are the annual holiday activity playschemes encompassing play, leisure, arts and sports that are delivered to young people aged 10-16 years living in Guildford Borough. The Cultural Services Development Team at Guildford Borough Council organises and manages the scheme, which offers 175 places per day for 3 weeks in the Summer and 1 week at Easter. Initially places are offered to young people from target areas of the Borough, extending to the whole of the Borough at a later stage.

FISH provides a wide ranging programme of activities, such as jewellery making, photography, cooking, computer workshops, dance, cricket, trampoline, tennis, squash, yoga, and much more. As well as the onsite workshops, which are all delivered from King's College, Southway, Guildford, there are off site activities ranging from 'high ropes challenge' courses to skiing. The young people are able to choose a 'package' of activity to suit their own taste from the varied timetable.

The project is heavily subsidised by the Council, which is able to offer places to families costing on average £11.60 per child, per day, keeping the cost low. FISH offers 6 places per day on the Easter scheme and 13 places per day on the summer scheme for young people with disabilities or additional needs. One to one workers give young people needing extra support the opportunity to have the freedom to take part in their own chosen activities.

CHIPS

CHIPS is a Summer and Easter holiday playscheme which aims to provide and promote education and care for children aged 4-11yrs during school holidays through play and recreational activities.

The playscheme is delivered at Weyfield Primary and Guildford Grove Primary Schools accommodating children from the targeted Park Barn, Stoke and Westborough wards of north Guildford. CHIPS caters for up to 60 children per day from 9.00-4.30pm. Activities are based on site within the schools and include arts, crafts, free play and sports as well as providing activities from external facilitators in activities such as karate, dance, film workshops and go-karting. Chips is able to offer a small number of places each day for children with disabilities and aims to be inclusive by providing support workers for those young people.

CHIPS is a registered charity, which is supported by Guildford Borough Council's Cultural Services Development Team.

ASH PLAY SESSIONS

Ash Holiday Play & Craft sessions are delivered during each school holiday throughout the year. The sessions are hosted by Guildford Borough Council's Cultural Services Development Team and are delivered at Ash Youth Centre. The Ash Play Sessions offer 24 places for children aged 3-7 years and a further 8 spaces for children aged 8-11 years during each session. Sessions are usually delivered for 2 hour periods, twice a day, two days per week through each school holiday. Places on the scheme are subsidised to ensure the scheme is inclusive to families within the targeted Ash Community. Activities offered include games, sports, arts, crafts and free play sessions delivered both indoor and out.

KOOSA KIDS

Koosa Kids is a company, which works very closely in partnership with local schools, churches, local communities and the Early Years and Childcare Partnership to provide quality holiday and after school clubs in Guildford and other surrounding areas.

Koosa Kids currently operates from St Joseph's Primary School, Guildford during school holidays and from the neighbouring St Mary's church hall for its after school club during term time. The holiday club operates 5 days per week from 8.30am – 6.00pm each school holiday period and regularly caters for 70-80 children aged 4-12 years old. The holiday club provides a safe, supportive environment where children are encouraged to take part in arts and craft, dance, drama, sports, free play and group games.

During term time, the after school club offers similar activities, with 'free time' zones included where children can draw, read or just simply 'chillout'. Koosa Kids provides a selection of healthy snacks and fruit during the after school club. It also provides a limited pick-up service for children from the surrounding 4 feeder primary schools (Worplesdon, Wood Street, Stoughton and Northmead Schools) and drops them off directly at the facility. For those attending the host school, members of Koosa staff supervise a walking bus.

Koosa Kids is keen to expand their provision in other areas within Guildford where there is identified need. Partnership working is key to its success in securing appropriate premises for delivery.

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As a result of extensive consultation with the Borough's Play and Youth Officer the local community, schools and organisations through 2005 and 2006, Koosa Kids has started operating at a second site in Ash during May 2007. The scheme based at Ash Manor Sports Centre offers sports, crafts, dance and drama activities to the local community at competitive rates.

DISABILITY CHALLENGERS

Disability Challengers is the leading Guildford charity in provision for children and young people up to 12 yrs with any form of physical, learning or sensory impairment. Providing a wide range of fun and challenging activities for children and young people of all abilities, the charity caters for parents and siblings to join in also.

The scheme is based primarily in Challengers Guildford Centre (Stoke Park, Guildford), but also provides outside leisure opportunities through its leisure development officers' programmes. Sports sessions at UNISPORT (Surrey University), swim club at Spectrum Leisure Complex, parent and toddler mornings and youth groups are also included in the scheme. Children over the age of 12 are provided for through a youth group with day and evening activities. Disability Challengers focuses its approach heavily on the concept and values of play.

GUILDFORD YOUTH COUNCIL

Guildford Youth Council is made up of young people from across the Borough aged 12- 19 years. Representation comes primarily from school councils, youth organisations and local youth groups. The Youth Council meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues affecting young people and shares ideas on how these issues could be addressed through the Youth Council's activities. The aim of the Youth Council is to represent their peers' views and voice their opinions on issues that matter to them. They aspire to ensure that the views of young people are heard and understood by those who make decisions in their communities. The Council provides a forum for consultation and the sharing of information on youth issues, which is communicated to the Borough Council and other interested parties.

GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL- GRANT AID

Each year Guildford Borough Council makes grant aid available, offering financial assistance to voluntary, non- profit making groups or organisations undertaking or delivering activities in Guildford Borough.

Applications are considered through community and youth, sports, arts and play activities/schemes. The play grants scheme supports groups wishing to establish across a variety of new playschemes or playgroups or deliver other play projects within the Borough.

b) FIXED EQUIPMENT

For the audit of fixed equipment playgrounds, four categories of play area were used, namely:

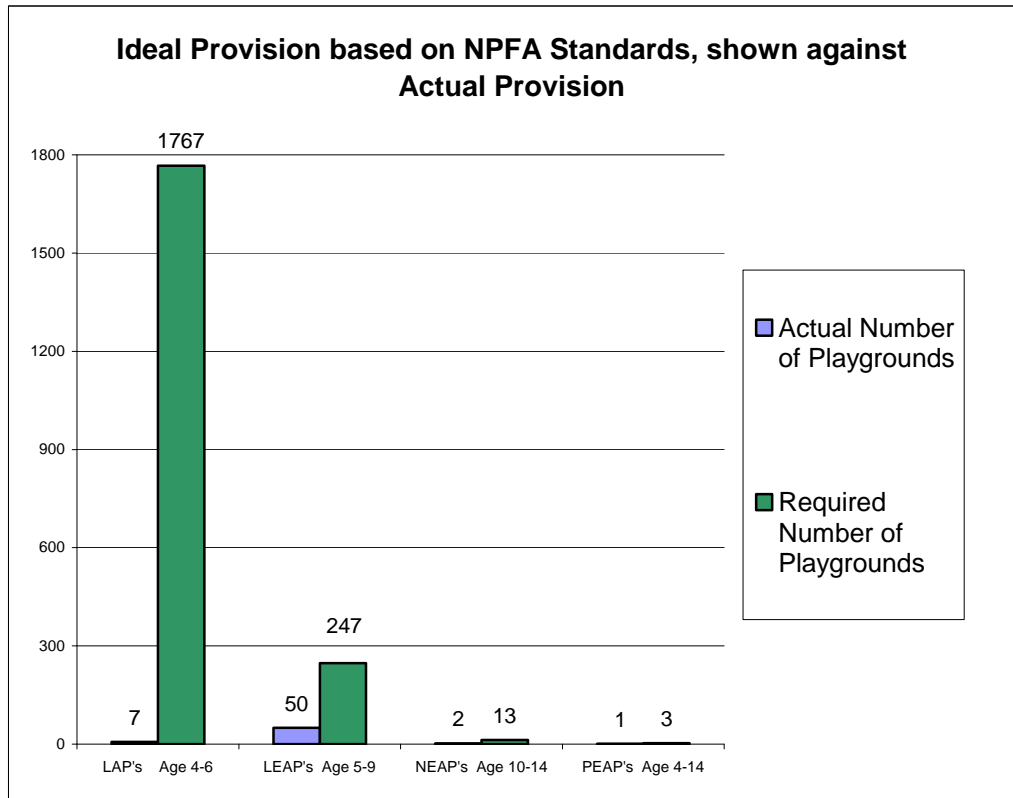
LAP - Local Area of Play
LEAP - Local Equipped Area of Play

NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play
 PEAP - Premier Equipped Area of Play

For the detail of the criteria for each of these categories see **Annexe 1** of this document.

The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) sets a standard of provision for each category type based on the population within an area. The graph below shows how the playground numbers within Guildford Borough compare with the NPFA standard:

IDEAL PROVISION BASED ON NPFA GUIDELINES



The large discrepancy with LAPs is based on the requirement to provide a designated space within 100m radius of any dwelling. Whilst it is not practical to provide these within all housing developments, care is taken to establish open space provision to NPFA standards in new housing developments, on site whenever possible, or through enhancements made to nearby sites when not practical within the development itself.

The following table shows how Guildford Borough compares in provision with other Surrey districts:

GUILDFORD BOROUGH / SURREY COMPARISONS

| Reference | Indicator | Guildford Actual 2002/3 | Surrey Average | Top 25% All Districts |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| AC – 12a | GBC playgrounds per 1000 children under | 1.6 | 2.2 | 3.2 |

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| | | | | |
|----------|---|------|------|-----|
| | 12 | | | |
| AC – 12a | GBC & Parish playgrounds per 1000 children under 12 | 3.33 | 2.2 | 3.2 |
| AC – 12b | GBC % that conform to national standards for: | | | |
| (i) | • Local unequipped play areas (LAP) | 28% | 7.5% | 4% |
| (ii) | • Local equipped play areas (LEAP) | 50% | 62% | 52% |
| (iii) | • Neighbourhood play areas (NEAP) | 100% | 12% | 7% |

Note: Audit Commission PIs were replaced with a range of BVPI's as from 2001/02

In recognition of the importance of informal play sites, the Borough Council provides and maintains 1,100 ha of parks and open spaces. A survey of all such spaces has been undertaken by the Council to establish where there is a shortfall of provision. Every opportunity is taken to address this shortfall and/or enhance the quality of provision to allow a more intensive use of sites. Loss of existing provision is strongly resisted.

c) YOUTH PROVISION

Facilities specifically for young people requiring actual fixed equipment are as follows:

- Skateboard/BMX sites – number in the Borough – 2
- Youth Shelters - number in the Borough - 4
- Multi-Sport Courts - number in the Borough - 7

Youth Clubs are also provided at many venues throughout the Borough. These, however, are only provided for a limited number of hours per week.

8. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROVISION : ACTION PLAN REFERENCES

a) **Play Development**

Mission Statement

To be at the heart of flexible and innovative partnerships that provide a framework to encourage and create sustainable play opportunities that will enable the whole community to have access to whichever play setting they choose.

Strategic Aims for Play Development

In seeking to achieve the broad aim of Guildford Borough Council's vision for play, the Council has identified six strategic aims:

1. Set a framework within which play can contribute to improving the quality of community life as a whole.
2. Widen accessibility of play in Guildford in terms of location, times of year and types of play provision with an emphasis on social inclusion and a multi-agency approach.
3. To provide advice encourage and enable participation by all sections of the community in play by the provision of good quality, safe and suitable facilities, services and opportunities, by supporting the efforts of committees, schools, community groups and individuals.
4. To encourage partnerships to develop a clear protocol for working together effectively so as to deliver coherent training, advice, promotion, support and information services that build capacity and strengthen the quality, choice, accessibility and diversity of provision locally.
5. To fund or help seek funding for sustainable play provision and initiatives that effectively meet local needs and that demonstrate the benefits of good play opportunities specifically to disadvantaged communities and disabled children.
6. Demonstrate the value and importance of good play provision in Guildford through the creation and development of new and existing holiday playschemes and after school clubs.

Action Plan for Play Development

The issues and gaps identified through public consultation were listed and compared with current provision. Where there were still gaps identified, these areas were listed in the form of an Action Plan, which is set out in **Annexe 2**. These could then be prioritised using a set of criteria.

b) **Early Years and Childcare Settings**

For identification of the current range and availability of childcare settings across the Borough, a mapping exercise has been carried out, listing the provider name and type of provision.

This information includes, day nurseries, nursery schools/ classes, holiday schemes, pre school groups and out of school care.

The information has been gathered from Surrey Children's Information Service, Ofsted, Surrey County Council Children's Services and Guildford Borough Council Cultural Services.

The information has been collated and is provided in a database table format (**Annexe 3**). From this database, all childcare providers have been plotted on the Guildford Borough map, representative of their location and setting type. This information is displayed with all settings (**Annexe 4**) and each individual setting type (**Annexe 5**).

This mapping exercise demonstrates the large concentration of settings in and around the Town Centre in particular and smaller concentrations within the larger urban settlements across the Borough. The more rural settlements have little if any provision for some setting types and distribution is ad-hoc across the Borough.

c) **Fixed Equipment**

A process has been devised to assess the performance of the existing playgrounds in the Borough. This process lists all the minimum standards for each category of site (see **Annexe 6**). *For the assessment of each play area reference will need to be made to the Fixed Equipment Playground Strategy Documents 3 and 4 of 4.* The scores recorded on the survey sheets are calculated as a percentage of the required minimum standards; each site can then be compared with others in the same category to assess an order of priority for improvement.

As circumstances change on the sites, the scores can be adjusted accordingly and the ranking changed. Similarly, sites may change category if they are up or downgraded. The ultimate aim will be to work towards all sites achieving a Performance Rating of 100% in their particular category.

All Guildford Borough Council and Parish Council owned playgrounds within the Borough were surveyed and categorised into LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs or PEAPs. The catchment areas for each category were calculated for the appropriate age groups from the walking distance and times, the location of playgrounds and their catchment areas were plotted onto a base map using the 'Map Info' GIS system.

In order to identify areas that require new provision, the Urban and Settlement Areas defined in the Local Plan (Local Plan Policy 99RE3) were used; these designated areas cover 84.95% of Guildford Borough's residential addresses.

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Total residential addresses in Guildford Borough | 53,052 | 100% |
| Total addresses included within the settlement areas | 45,070 | 84.95% |
| Total addresses excluded from the settlement areas | 7,982 | 15.05% |

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES WITHIN GUILDFORD BOROUGH

Action Plan for Fixed Equipment

The Action plan for delivery of the Fixed Equipment Strategy is attached at **Annexe 7**. The programme is accompanied by the mapping exercises, Current Playgrounds (**Annexe 8**) and potential locations of new playground sites (**Annexe 9**).

d) **Youth Provision**

All Guildford Borough Council and Parish Council owned youth facilities, both isolated and those forming parts of playgrounds within the Borough were surveyed. A comparison between 1991 and 2001 census figures analysed the target age groups and age distribution and results showed that population figures have increased by approximately 7%, for example the age group 10-15 increased by 592 individuals. These figures therefore suggest that demand for youth facilities will increase over the next decade.

The development programme was in part, constructed by assessing information from other Guildford Borough Council services eg. Leisure Services (including the extensive consultation carried out for the formulation of the Cultural Strategy), Safer Guildford Partnership Executive and the demand highlighted by other partners, including Safer Places for Young People study group, co-ordinated by Surrey County Council Youth Development Service, the Surrey Police and Guildford Borough Parish Councils. The initial development proposals/suggestions have been compared with available open space, suitability, size of the location and initially listed in order of youth population density, eg. highest to lowest.

With regard to possible new provision the same local plan information was used as for the Fixed Equipment Strategy.

Action Plan for Youth Facilities

The Action Plan of delivery for youth facilities is attached at **Annexe 10**.

9. RESULTS OF NEEDS ANALYSIS / STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Having undertaken the methodology identified in section 8 above, the needs for new or improved provision in each study category was ascertained as follows:

a) Play Development

| Issue | Where consultation was received | Action |
|---|--|---|
| Closure of SPLASH activity programme for 10-16 year olds | SPLASH AGM | Development of FISH (Fun in the Summer Holidays) for 10-16 yr olds a holiday activity programme |
| The extension of FISH (Fun in the Summer Holidays) into the Easter holidays | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Taken a report to Policy Panel (Leisure) Committee to request the extra funding to extend the project |
| The closure of play schemes in North Guildford and the lack of voluntary committees to run them | Stoke Ward Community Network Lunch – February 2002 | Introduction of CHIPS (Children's Holiday Playscheme) |
| The need to encourage people on low incomes to participate in leisure activities | Guildford Borough Council Citizens' Panel – January 2002 | Target marketing |
| The need to provide more locally based leisure facilities to alleviate some of the main barriers to participation such as timing and location | Guildford Borough Council Citizens' Panel – January 2002 | Mapping exercise for play development to identify the areas of weakness |
| Development of play schemes in the rural areas of Guildford Borough | Play Strategy Consultation Event – January 2003 | Ash play schemes Play grant allocation |
| Working with Parish Councils in the development of holiday play provision | Play Strategy Consultation Event – January 2003 | Partnership work with Paly and Youth Officer |
| The development of family fun days in local areas | Overview and Scrutiny Committee study group | Piloting SPLAT fun day in Stoke Ward on 19 July 2003 promoting freely accessible play |
| The provision of an annual After School Club Grant in line with annual Holiday Play scheme Grant | Overview and Scrutiny Committee study group | Executive Committee agreed a report requesting a grant for £5,000 per year in June 2003 |
| Inclusion training for play | Out of school network | Provide training on an |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| worker | meetings | annual basis with Disability Challengers for all FISH supervisors and other play workers. Work with the local community nurses for children with disabilities to provide informal training as required |
| First Aid Training for play workers | | Provide annual first aid training with 'Safety Solutions' for play workers. Subsidise the cost of the course |

b) Fixed Equipment

In order to address the issues of upgrading existing sites and providing new ones in areas of need, two programmes have been identified:

1. REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME
2. NEW PROVISION PROGRAMME

The programmes will operate on a concurrent basis, the aim being to allocate resources targeting areas of highest need. The programmes require substantial investment and an ongoing firm commitment to the policy over an extended period of time.

The wider picture must be considered and a Borough-wide perspective ascertained. The intention is to meet with all Parish Councils to provide a joint approach to provision.

Once the results of the surveys have been evaluated, the needs of existing sites and gaps in provision can be determined. After funding has been secured, local residents will be consulted prior to any major improvements being implemented.

The elements of the programmes are outlined in the following sections.

This programme seeks to refurbish all the Borough's existing sites to meet minimum standards, with the most needy being targeted first. In order to prioritise the sites, three minimum standards were identified as being critical. All the current sites exhibiting some or all of these criteria have been listed. To rank the sites, a scoring system has been devised according to the importance of the criteria, the higher the score the more important the criteria, as follows:

- Equipment more than 10 years old = 12 points
- Playgrounds with furniture which fails to meet the Standard = 3 points
- Playgrounds with degrading safer surfacing = 2 points

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Sites exhibiting partial elements of the criteria, e.g. some old and some new equipment, will score half of the possible points for that category. Two or more sites with the same score are further ranked according to their overall average site performance percentage score. If sites still have the same score they are then prioritised by their play value score.

These sites were then grouped according to their scores as follows:

Priority 1

Playgrounds with equipment greater than 10 years old, with site furniture that does not meet the required Standard and/or degrading safer surfacing, planned and funded for within 1 - 4 years.

Priority 2

Site furniture that does not meet the required Standard and/or degrading safer surfacing, planned within 5 - 7 years.

Priority 3

Site furniture that does not meet the required Standard and/or degrading safer surfacing, with a playground performance percentage over 75%, planned within 8 -10 years.

The Priority Listings for each site will be reviewed annually as improvements take place.

Sites with Play Value under 100%, which is calculated as a combined average percentage of the number of items of equipment, range of activities and total number of activities, will be addressed in the long term.

Site and Sector Analysis

When a site is identified for refurbishment a 'Site and Sector Analysis' will be undertaken which will determine whether the site is to be re-categorised, relocated, removed or refurbished. If any of these options except complete removal is chosen, then the site should be developed to meet all the minimum standards for its category, not just those which have been prioritised.

Adherence to this procedure will systematically ensure that all existing sites are gradually upgraded to meet the current minimum standards. Any work undertaken on a site should be recorded on the overall performance sheet with scores and ranking adjusted accordingly.

New Provision Programme

Where new play sites are required to address the areas of deficiency, such areas will be prioritised according to child population density and availability of suitable current and future sites. They will then be subject to the same site and sector analysis as the sites for refurbishment to ensure they are properly located.

The result of this analysis can be found in **Annexe 9**.

c) **Youth Provision**

The installation programme requires relatively small capital investment sums over the total life of the Strategy in relation to the large sums associated with the Fixed Equipment Playground Strategy.

The wider picture has been considered and a Borough-wide perspective ascertained. As the development programme 'rolls out', it is the intention to meet with all Parish Councils to provide a joint approach to provision where land ownership-availability is an issue that prohibits progress. As now, some youth facility provision can be provided jointly, through the concurrent function grants provided by Guildford Borough Council to Parish Councils or directly from Parish Councils if the funding/location opportunities are available and agreement can be reached. Where GBC S.106 funding is provided to Parish Councils for the installation of youth facilities, all ongoing revenue funding would have to be provided by the relevant Parish Council. GBC Officers would manage the installation projects to an agreed specification.

After funding has been agreed and secured, local Members and residents will be consulted prior to any major improvements being implemented. The first review of the strategy will provisionally take place during 2008-2009.

The results of this analysis can be found in **Annexe 8**.

10. PLAY PRIORITIES

The existing strategies, consultations and previous investment in play identifies that there is already extensive play provision across Guildford. The range and location of children's play areas and youth facilities has been mapped and attached to this strategy. The new Action Plans for this Strategy have been developed from the previous play, youth and equipment strategies and are attached in **Annexes 2,7 and 10**.

As an overview the strategy identifies a number of gaps in specific areas of play provision around the following five priority areas:

- a) removing transport barriers from play opportunities
- b) improving physical health and fitness in young people
- c) dealing with inequality and exclusion
- d) staying safe
- e) enabling enjoyment and achievement

a) REMOVING TRANSPORT BARRIERS FROM PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Transport difficulties is an issue that has been highlighted in a number of surveys and by the Guildford Youth Council. Also see action 6.14 of Guildford's Cultural Strategy.

Some areas of the Borough have poor bus services thus restricting access to all but local play provision. Also poorer families cannot always afford the cost of transport to facilities.

Whilst options for providing specific transport provision to play facilities have been discussed, it has only actually been provided for the FISH programme. It was therefore decided that it may be more practical to purchase/jointly fund a play bus to take provision out to the young people that need it.

b) IMPROVING PHYSICAL HEALTH AND FITNESS IN YOUNG PEOPLE

The Health Survey for England (2004) identified the following key factors and observations around obesity in children and young people.

Among boys and girls aged 2-15, the proportion who were obese increased between 1995 and 2004, from 11 per cent in 1995 to 19 per cent in 2004 among boys, and from 12 per cent in 1995 to 18 per cent in 2004 among girls.

The same pattern was apparent among boys aged 2-10 between 1995 and 2004, with an increase in the proportion that were obese, (10 per cent to 16 per cent). There was a different pattern for girls aged 2-10, with no statistically significant increases in the proportion overweight (14 per cent in 2004) or obese (12 per cent in 2004) in this period.

In boys aged 11-15, as with younger boys, there was an increase in the proportion that were obese between 1995 and 2004 (14 per cent to 24 per cent). There were increases

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in this period among girls aged 11-15 who were overweight (14 per cent to 19 per cent), and obese (15 per cent to 26 per cent).

In 2010 it is expected that at least 200,392 boys and 246,290 girls who are insufficiently active will be obese.

The acknowledgement that the earlier children are introduced to suitable exercise and sport has been evidenced by a number of governing bodies. This has led to the introduction of special reduced size equipment suitable for use by young people. Also evidence from recent studies indicates that properly designed training programmes and equipment not only have a beneficial effect to the well-being of the child but introduces them to activities which can provide a healthy attitude to exercise for life.

The Government White Paper Choosing Health (2004), noted that *'many children appear to have less time being physically active... because of the increase in car use and heightened concern about the potential risks of unsupervised playing outdoors.'*

c) DEALING WITH INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION

For disabled children, negative attitudes and inaccessible environments compound the general problems experienced by most children, creating enormous social and physical barriers to their enjoyment of the right to play independently. Guildford Borough Council is keen to continue dealing with inequality and exclusion through their partnership work with Disability Challengers, the leading Guildford charity in provision for children and young people up to 12 yrs with any form of physical, learning or sensory impairment. Providing a wide range of fun and challenging activities for children and young people of all abilities, the charity caters for parents and siblings to join in also. Disability Challengers focuses its approach heavily on the concept and values of play.

d) STAYING SAFE

One of the main obstacles to access to play can be parents not allowing their children to play outside the house through fear of dangers such as strangers, bullying and traffic.

It is vital therefore that play schemes and facilities give parents confidence that these issues have been addressed as far as practically possible.

Care must be taken, however, that not all risks are designed out of play provision, as this will deny children the experience of certain decision making processes and may lead quickly to boredom and restricted self-confidence.

On the other hand, providing exciting play opportunities for young people can also reduce the fear of crime in a location as it provides something for the young people to do and a place for them to gather.

When all Guildford Borough Council and Parish Council owned youth facilities, both isolated and those forming parts of playgrounds within the Borough were surveyed. A comparison between 1991 and 2001 census figures analysed the target age groups age distribution and results showed that population figures have increased by

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approximately 7%, for example the age group 10-15 increased by 592 individuals. These figures therefore suggest that demand for youth facilities will increase over the next decade.

e) ENABLING ENJOYMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

One of the main factors obtained from play, as in any other leisure pursuit, should be enjoyment. Providing children and young people with a range of accessible and stimulating play opportunities should give every chance to their gaining an enjoyable experience.

Allowing freedom of choice to a range of activities will also allow the opportunity to experience success and failure in many sources, either socially, mentally or physically, which in turn will help to provide a sense of achievement.

11. KEY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

As part of the requirement under the Children Act 2004, the Borough Council has set up an Officer group to deal with all matters related to children and young people, the Planning for Children and Young People Working Group (PCYPG).

The primary responsibility of the group is to ensure:

- a) that the Council complies with its statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 taking account of accompanying guidance and best practice, and to
- b) develop a corporate vision for children and young people on behalf of the Council.

Specific areas of responsibility:

- a) child protection/safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across all aspects of the Council's work
 - i) monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Council's child protection policy
 - ii) monitoring the budget for the Council's child protection policy
 - iii) ensuring procedures are in place for information management and information sharing
- b) overseeing the implementation of the Children Act 2004 and any future requirements that will arise from the green papers "Every Child Matters" and "Youth Matters"
- c) supporting the implementation of the Surrey Children and Young People's (CYP) plan locally
 - i) ensuring representation on the local area Children and Young People's Partnership Board
- d) providing advice and guidance on information management in relation to the Surrey Children's and Young People's Plan

Membership:

Members are drawn from appropriate Officers across Service Units. The core (essential) membership includes representatives from:

Management Team

Cultural Services

Housing Advice Services

Spectrum

Human Resources

Neighbourhood and Housing Management Services

Communications

Environmental Planning

Environmental Services

Licensing

Other officers are co-opted as necessary:

Members are formally nominated officers for their Service Unit or Directorate and are responsible for providing advice, support or guidance to any staff that may require it.

Jim Miles has been designated the Council's Lead Officer for Children and Councillor Vas Kapsalis the Lead Member.

12. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN FOR SURREY

This is the County Plan for everybody working with and for children and young people. It outlines the ways in which the County will achieve a vision and improve services for children and young people over the next three years.

In terms of the detailed targets set out in the Plan under the 5 outcomes heading of *Every Child Matters*, this Council will contribute particularly to the following:

- a) **Being Healthy**
 - i) BH3: reduced obesity
- b) **Staying Safe**
 - i) S1: protection from neglect, harm, abuse and exploitation
 - ii) S3: children and young people have confidence in the safety of their communities
- c) **Enjoying and achieving**
 - i) EA1: increased access to integrated local services including Children’s Centres and extended schools
 - ii) EA2: increased access to leisure, culture and sporting opportunities
 - iii) EA3: more choice, flexibility and opportunities to creative and stimulating learning
- d) **Making a positive contribution**
 - i) PC1: increased influence of children, young people and families on design and delivery of services and decision making
 - ii) PC2: parents, carers, families and communities are supported to improve the lives of children and young people
 - iii) PC3: an increased contribution to society by children and young people through volunteering and other activities
- e) **Achieving Economic Wellbeing**
 - i) EW3: children, young people and their families access benefits and opportunities to reduce deprivation and poverty

In terms of the ten targets set out above, borough and district councils act as a lead partner in only two – EA2 and EW3.

13. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Following the production of the Strategy and Action Plan of works, it is vital that they are regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure what is being undertaken is still relevant and required and is being carried out efficiently and effectively. For this Strategy these processes will be undertaken at least on an annual basis, but more frequently should this prove necessary for any amendments required due to changes in funding eg availability of S106 monies linked to a development, new or changed legislation etc.

Monitoring and evaluation will be facilitated in a number of ways, including:

- a) SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time related) Targets – if projects are based around SMART targets the parameters are set to allow them to be easily monitored.
- b) Performance Indicators – setting performance indicators around areas such as; cost related to use; number of children/young people within a certain radius; inclusive access; user satisfaction.
- c) Surveys – feedback from users and non-users via questionnaires, focus groups, census information etc.
- d) Debrief meetings following completion of a project.

For optimum use of resources, it will not be practical to monitor every project or process, but appropriate samples will be taken sufficient to provide adequate feedback/information to make effective value judgements on the success or otherwise of each development.

The life cycle of this strategy expires in 2010. Between endorsement and 2010 the Play Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Particular emphasis will be given to updating priorities, current provision and a revision of the needs analysis.

SUMMARY OF PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

As adopted by Guildford Borough Council

(i) LOCAL AREAS FOR PLAY (LAP)

- Maximum radius of catchment: 100m
- Target Age Group: 4-6 years
- Activity Zone: 100m²
- Minimum of 1 item play equipment
- Grassed and/or Surfaced Play Space: 100m²
- Seating for adults: 2 benches
- Road Safety Barriers and Signs (where applicable)
- Number of litterbins: 1
- Disabled Access
- Housing Buffer Zone: minimum 5m from ground floor windows
- Site Character Value Target: 50%

In addition to the above, dog proof fencing would be an advantage, however, this may not always be practical.

(ii) LOCAL EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (LEAP)

- Maximum radius of catchment: 400m
- Target Age Group: 4-8 years
- Activity Zone: 400m²
- Number of Items of Play Equipment: 2
- Number of Different Play Activities: 5
- Total Number of Play Activities: 5
- An Area of Grassed Play Space
- Seating for adults: 4 benches
- Number of litterbins: 2
- Disabled Access minimum: 900mm wide
- Housing Buffer Zone minimum: 20m
- Site Character Value Target: 60%

(iii) NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (NEAP)

- Maximum radius of catchment: 1000m
- Target Age Group: 4-8 and 8-14 in separated areas
- Activity Zone: 1000m²
- Number of items of Play Equipment: (4-8 age): 2, (8-14 age): 4
- Number of Different Play Activities: (4-8 age): 2, (8-14 age): 8
- Total number of Play Activities: (4-8 age): 2, (8-14 age): 8

(ANNEXE 1)

- Area for Grassed and Surfaced Play Space
- Seating for adults: 6 benches
- Road Safety Barriers and Signs (where applicable)
- Number of litterbins: 3
- Dog proof access and fencing
- Adequate safer surfacing
- Cycle Rack Space: 6
- Teenage Sitting Area
- Disabled Access minimum: 900mm
- Housing Buffer Zone minimum: 30m
- Site Character Value Target: 69%

(iv) **PREMIER EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (PEAP)**

- Maximum catchment area: Borough wide
- Target Age Group: 4-8 and 8-14 separated
- Activity Zone: 3000m²
- Number of items of Play Equipment (4-8 age): 5, (8-14 age): 8
- Number of Different Play Activities (4-8age): 8, (8-14 age): 12
- Total number of Play Activities (4-8 age): 16, (8-14 age): 24
- Play Equipment for use by disabled children
- Disabled Access Minimum: 900mm wide
- Unique Play Facility
- Area of Grassed and Surfaced Play Space
- Teenage Sitting Area
- Seating for adults: 10 benches
- Number of litterbins: 5
- Road Safety Barriers and Signs (where applicable)
- Dog proof access and fencing
- Adequate safer surfacing
- Shelter and toilets
- Accessible car parking (on or off street)
- Cycle Racks spaces: 10
- Adjacent to other casual family recreational activities
- Housing Buffer Zone minimum: 50m
- Site Character Value Target: 89%

PLAYGROUND STANDARDS – PERFORMANCE AND RANKING SHEET
Notes to accompany sheet.

This process has been devised in order to compare and rank playgrounds within the same category, thus providing a means of quickly assessing deficiency in performance.

The columns should be completed as follows:

A – C

| | |
|---|---|
| A | Items of Play Equipment in 4-8 range Items of Play Equipment in 8-14 range |
| B | Different Play activities in 4-8 range Different Play activities in 8-14 range |
| C | Total Play Activities in 4-8 range Total Play Activities in 8-14 range |

Each individual column is subdivided into two, in A – F the left hand column is shaded. The figures entered into the shaded columns are taken from the Playground Classification Sheet in Annexe 3.0 as the percentage score for each of the categories. This indicates whether the playground meets or exceeds the minimum standards.

In the right hand column, the score is interpreted as follows:

- If the playground meets or exceeds the standard – Score 100
- If the playground fails to meet the standard – insert the score from the shaded column

D – Activity Zone

The difference between the minimum standard for Activity Zone for the relevant category and the actual figure on site (see Playground Classification Sheet) is entered into the left hand shaded column.

In the right hand column, the score is interpreted as follows:

- If the playground meets or exceeds the standard – Score 100
- If the playground fails to meet the standard insert the actual activity zone score expressed as a percentage of the required minimum.

E – Site Character Value

The difference between the minimum standard for character value for the relevant category and the actual value as assessed on the Playground Character Value Checklist (see Annexe 3.0) is entered into the left hand shaded column.

In the right hand column, the score is interpreted as follows:

- If the playground meets or exceeds the standard – Score 100
- If the playground fails to meet the standard, insert the actual value expressed as a percentage of the required minimum.

F – Age of Play Equipment

In the shaded column insert either the year of installation of the play equipment **or** if this is over ten years and not known, -10.

In the right hand column the score is interpreted as follows:

- If the equipment is all less than 10 years old – Score 100
- If the equipment is partly less than 10 years old, the number of items less than 10 years old should be expressed as a percentage of the total number of items
- If all equipment is more than 10 years old – Score 0

G – Play Equipment Condition

- The figure entered in this column is the Condition Index of Equipment from the third page of the Playground Inventory Sheet.

H – Separated Age Groups

This category is only scored for NEAPs and PEAPs.

- If 4-8 and 8-14 equipment is segregated – Score 100
- If all equipment is mixed together – Score 0

I – Grassed Play Space

- If the site has a grassed play space within the activity zone – Score 100
- If the site has no grassed play space – Score 0

J – Surfaced Play Space

This category is scored for NEAPs and PEAPs only

- If the site has a surfaced play space within the activity zone – Score 100
- If the site has no surfaced play space – Score 0

K – Teenage Sitting Area

This category is scored for NEAPs and PEAPs only

- If the site has a group sitting area for teenagers – Score 100
- If the site has no group sitting area – Score 0

(Note – group sitting may be a function of equipment not necessarily seating)

L – Unique Play Facility

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site has a unique play facility not found elsewhere in the Borough – Score 100
- If the site does not have a unique facility – Score 0.

M – Adjacent to other Recreational Facilities

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site is adjacent to other family recreational facilities – Score 100
- If the site is not adjacent to other facilities – Score 0

N – Play equipment for Children with Disabilities

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site includes play equipment for children with disabilities – Score 100
- If the site does not include play equipment for children with disabilities – Score 0

O – Road Safety Barriers & Signs

- If the site is adjacent to a road and warning signs and/or barriers are present – Score 100
- If the site is adjacent to a road and there are no warning signs and/or barriers – Score 0
- If the site is not adjacent to a road indicate N/A in this column

P – Dog Proofing

- If the site has complete dog proofing i.e. fencing and gates – Score 100

**ITEM 6 – ANNEXE 1
(ANNEXE 6)**

- If part of the site has dog proofing but some equipment remains outside the fence – Score 50
- If the site has no dog proof fencing – Score 0

Q – Seating

- If the site satisfies or exceeds the minimum standard for seating for that particular category (on the basis of 3 adults per bench seat) – Score 100
- If the site provides some seating, the number of adults capable of sitting 3 per bench should be expressed as a percentage of the minimum standard figure
- If the site has no seating – Score 0

R – Safer Surfacing

- If the site is completely surfaced with safer surfacing to the recommendations of EN1177 – Score 100
- If the site is partially surfaced with safer surfacing, but not all equipment is included – Score 50
- If the site has no safer surfacing – Score 0

S – Disabled Access

- If the site allows access for wheelchair users within the activity zone – Score 100
- If the site does not allow access for wheelchair users within the activity zone – Score 0

T – Shelter

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site has some form of shelter – Score 100
- If the site does not provide shelter – Score 0

U – Toilets

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site is within easy access of public toilet facilities – Score 100
- If no public toilet facilities are available – Score 0

V – Accessible Car Parking

This category is only scored for PEAPs

- If the site is within easy access of on or off-street parking – Score 100

- If the site has no nearby on or off-street parking – Score 0

W – Cycle Rack

This category is only scored for NEAPS and PEAPs

- If the site satisfies the minimum standard for number of cycle rack spaces within its category – Score 100
- If the site provides some cycle parking, the number of spaces should be expressed as a percentage of the minimum standard figure
- If the site has no cycle rack – Score 0

X – Vandalism Index ‘B’ or better

- If the Vandalism index for equipment and ancillary items on the Site Inventory (Annexe 1.0) is B or better – Score 100
- If the Vandalism index is C in any item – Score 0

Y – Ancillary Items Condition

- The condition index for ancillary items from page 3 of the Site Inventory should be entered in this column (See Annexe A).

Z – Total Percentage

- This figure is calculated by adding together all unshaded columns

Average Percentage

- This figure is calculated as follows

LAPs – the figure in Column Z should be divided by 14 if Column O (Road Safety signs and Barriers) is scored, or 13 if Column O is entered as N/A

LEAPs –

the figure in Column Z should be divided by 15 if Column O (Road Safety signs and Barriers) is scored, or 14 if Column O is entered as N/A

NEAPs –

the figure in Column Z should be divided by 28 if Column O is scored, or 27 if Column O is entered as N/A.

PEAPs –

the figure in Column Z should be divided by 28 if Column O is scored, or 27 if Column O is entered as N/A.

This figure is then used as a means to assess how well the playground performs in its category: the higher the score, the better the playground.

