

Development Office

Directorate of Children's Services
Westox House 1 Trinity Road Dudley West Midlands. DY1 1JQ
Tel: 01384 813716 Fax: 01384 814216 www.dudley.gov.uk

**Directorate of Children's Services**

The
Dudley Play Strategy
Consultation Document

Putting children and young people first in Dudley
September 2006

John Freeman
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Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Directorate of Children's Services
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DY1 1JQ



Thank you for taking the time to read our draft play strategy. This paper is in three sections and we hope you find the contents interesting and relevant.

The main policy statements and objectives are contained in Section Two but we have also included the general background and early work with the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Initiative application in Section Three.

The final Dudley Play Strategy will be endorsed by the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) in January 2007 when all elements of the play audit, portfolio and consultation programme have been completed.

Please contact the Play Strategy team if you require any further information about the Play Strategy programme.

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Consultation on: The Dudley Play Strategy

Summary: This paper sets out the draft policy statements and strategic framework for supporting children and young people's play across Dudley. We would welcome your views and support on this strategy and would encourage you to respond. The paper also describes the background and methodology being adopted by the Children and Young People's Partnership for the prioritisation and allocation of the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Initiative funding for Dudley.

Deadline: All responses to be received by
5.00 p.m. on Friday 27th October 2006

Consultees: Dudley Youth Council
 School Councils
 Children and young people
 Chairs of school governing bodies
 Headteachers
 Councillors
 Members of the Lifelong Learning Select Committee
 Members of Parliament
 The Black Country Learning and Skills Council
 Dudley Lifelong Learning Partnership
 Further Education Colleges
 Directorate staff
 Unions and Professional Associations
 Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
 Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
 Dudley MBC – Corporate Board
 Dudley Primary Care Trusts
 West Midlands Police
 Worcester Diocesan Education Committee
 Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission
 Dudley Association of Governing Bodies
 Neighbouring LEA Directors
 Dudley Racial Equality Council
 Community Forums
 Community Learning Networks
 Churches together in the Borough of Dudley

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Dudley Free Church Liaison Council
 Dudley Parent Partnership
 The Kashmiri Pakistani Professionals Forum
 Dudley Community Partnership
 Dudley Muslim Association
 Black Country Chamber of Commerce
 Black Country Connexions
 Dudley Education Business Group
 Community Representatives Panel
 Sure Start local programmes
 Children's Fund
 Children and Young People's Partnership
 Big Lottery Fund
 Sport England
 Arts Council West Midlands
 Heritage Lottery Fund
 Play England
 Skills Active

Public Access

Dudley MBC Public Libraries
 Dudley Website www.dudley.gov.uk
 and www.justenjoy.tv
 Reception desk of the Directorate of Children's Services
 Westox House
 Trinity Road
 Dudley
 DY1 1JQ

Responses to:

Linda Edwards Linda.Edwards@dudley.gov.uk
 Executive Support Team
 Directorate of Children's Services
 Westox House
 Trinity Road
 Dudley
 DY1 1JQ

All responses may be published. A large print version, and versions in other languages are available on request to the above address.

An introduction for children and young people in Dudley.

John Freeman, Director of Children's Services explains the background to the play strategy and how children and young people can get involved.

If you live in Dudley and are between the ages of 5 – 16 years or are part of a group of older young people with disabilities this document is for you. The Government has decided that children's play is an important part of growing up and have made £155 million of lottery money available to improve play facilities and play programmes across the country.

Just Enjoy

Dudley has been given £690,320 to spend on children's play over the next three years. We have decided to call this new lottery programme *Just Enjoy* and over the last few months we have asked over 6,000 children and young people across Dudley about their views and ideas on children's play.

What children have told us

Dudley children and young people have told us that play is very important to them. They want safe places to have fun and hang out with their friends. They have told us that they want to go swimming and play in the park, make up shows and play lots of sport. They want skate parks, places to ride their bikes and safe places to meet with chill out areas.

Some children just want to play outside their homes without the neighbours complaining or getting into trouble with the police. Lots of kids say they like having older youngsters around to help and don't mind some qualified adults helping them learn stuff and taking them to organised events. Some have told us they are frightened of being bullied outside. Thankfully, few have said this is a major problem but we need to try and make sure that children feel safe if they are to play outside.

Children with disabilities.

I believe that a very important part of the play strategy will be to make it far easier for children and young people with disabilities to access quality play provision across the Borough. Following a recent visit by Dudley young people

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from the Me2 learning disability group to meet Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner for England, the Commissioner wrote to the Mayor of Dudley asking what was being done to improve provision for disabled children across Dudley. We all recognise that for many children going out to play is not as easy for some children than others, especially for those children with a physical or learning disability who need extra help and consideration. You have told us that this is also very important to you and you want us to prioritise children with disabilities in this programme.

Look on the website

We have designed a website so you can see what everyone is saying about the programme at www.justenjoy.tv If you want to apply for some of the lottery money you can now download an application form and get someone to help you fill it out. You will need a partner organisation to work with if you are to receive some of this lottery funding. Have a look on the website to find out how to apply. You will need to get your application in by Friday 27th October 2006 which is the closing date.

Tell us what you think about this strategy

We would like you to read the play manifesto and strategy and send us your comments on the Just Enjoy website or free phone number on 0800 862 0 862 as soon as possible. When we have all your comments we shall add these to the strategy and send it to the Big Lottery Fund. If they like our proposals they will release the lottery funding so we can start spending it on your projects next summer. This is a really exciting programme so I do hope you will take part and feel the benefit across the Borough over the next three years.

Best wishes,



John Freeman
Director of Children's Services
11th September 2006

Directorate of Children's Services

A Play Strategy for Children and Young People in Dudley



**Just Enjoy - A strategy for supporting
children and young people's play
across Dudley**

2007 – 2010

www.justenjoy.tv

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The importance of play in Dudley

Gill Cooper – Chair of the Dudley Children and Young People's Implementation Group introduces the Play Strategy and explains why it so important for the Borough.

The Dudley Play Strategy and Manifesto for Children's Play in Dudley, which we have entitled - Just Enjoy, has been developed in partnership with the Dudley Children's and Young People's Partnership (CYPP). The CYPP is part of the Dudley Community Partnership (LSP) which has an overall vision to ensure the achievement and well-being of all children and young people living or learning in the Borough.

The partnership wants all children and young people in Dudley to be happy, healthy and fulfilled. By doing this we will be working towards the overall vision of the Community Strategy 2005 – 2020 which promotes working together to build stronger communities across the Borough. Below are the CYPP priorities which have been considered when drawing together the Play Strategy policy statements and objectives.

We believe that all children and young people in a strong community:

- *Are healthy, with a good sense of mental well-being*
- *Take an interest in where they live and have a sense of belonging*
- *Know their neighbours and are tolerant of people different from themselves*
- *Help and support one another through friendship and shared activities*
- *Work together to take pride in their community*

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- *Look out for each other, especially those less fortunate than themselves*
- *Make appropriate use of facilities in the area, particularly the opportunities to develop leisure time interests*
- *Have opportunities to do well in their education and pursue other learning interests*
- *Enjoy a good standard of living and are supported into rewarding jobs*
- *Provide positive role models for each other and the wider community*
- *Feel safe and that they have control over their lives*
- *Are able to affect decisions about their lives and the delivery of local services*
- *Have a good idea about what is on offer from service providers and how to access those services*
- *Have pride in and care for their environment*

The CYPP welcomes the opportunity to take the lead on the Dudley Play Partnership and its important work across the Borough. Children and young people across the Borough are telling us that play is fundamental to their lives and therefore must be an important part of the CYPP work now and in the future.

I would invite you to consider the strategy along with its policy statements and strategic objectives and ask you to support its implementation over the next four years and help change the way we deliver services to meet the play needs and improve outcomes for all children and young people, particularly through narrowing the gap for those at risk of disadvantage.

Thank you.



Gill Cooper
Chairperson
11th September 2006

A Manifesto for Children's Play in Dudley.

The Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) agrees to support and promote the following manifesto statements and ask that they are adopted by children, young people and adults across the Borough.

- All children and young people have the right to play, as play is very important for their health, safety, physical, emotional and economic well-being and their personal, social, and intellectual development.
- All children and young people should help each other play and protect one another from accidents, bullying and dangerous or harmful activities.
- All those involved with providing children's play activities should talk to children and take note of their views, needs, rights and interests, particularly those hardest to reach and those at risk from social exclusion.
- A wide range of play experiences and opportunities should be available for disabled children and young people so that all provision becomes fully inclusive and accessible.
- All adults with a responsibility and influence over the upbringing, education, safety and well-being of children and young people should make children's play a priority.
- All those who are responsible for public spaces should make them as safe and child friendly as possible.
- Special outdoor spaces should be set aside for children's play.
- Special arrangements should be made to support children's supervised and unsupervised play.
- All children need to experience adventure and risk in stimulating, exciting and challenging play environments.

The following strategy has been designed to support these broad manifesto statements and provide the support, training and provision to make them a reality for children and young people across Dudley.

September 2006

Section One

The story so far

Over the last three months the policy statements and objectives contained in Section Two of this play strategy have been explored and discussed with children, young people, parents and members of the general public across the Borough.

The Just Enjoy road show has visited over twenty locations during June, July and August 2006 and engaged and consulted with over 4,000 children, young people and members of the general public. Over 6,000 Just Enjoy consultation cards have been distributed and 1,737 children and young people have entered the Just Enjoy Children's Play Competition.

Consultation Road Show.



Children and young people across the Borough have been invited to respond to the statement "Play to me is ..." and asked to write or draw a reply, adding their name, address, gender, age and post code. They either completed the card at the road show or returned it later by using the freepost address that was printed on the card. A tear-off portion was then retained by the respondent with information on the programme and details about the

competition rules and conditions. Over 4,000 wrist bands with the consultation website address have also been distributed.

Media workshops

In addition to the consultation post cards, over 1,500 children and young people have been involved in Just Enjoy media workshops including video, radio and internet kiosks and completing over 1,000 questionnaires. A detailed analysis of the road show responses will be undertaken over the coming weeks together with the results of this consultation. The results will be published on the Just Enjoy website.

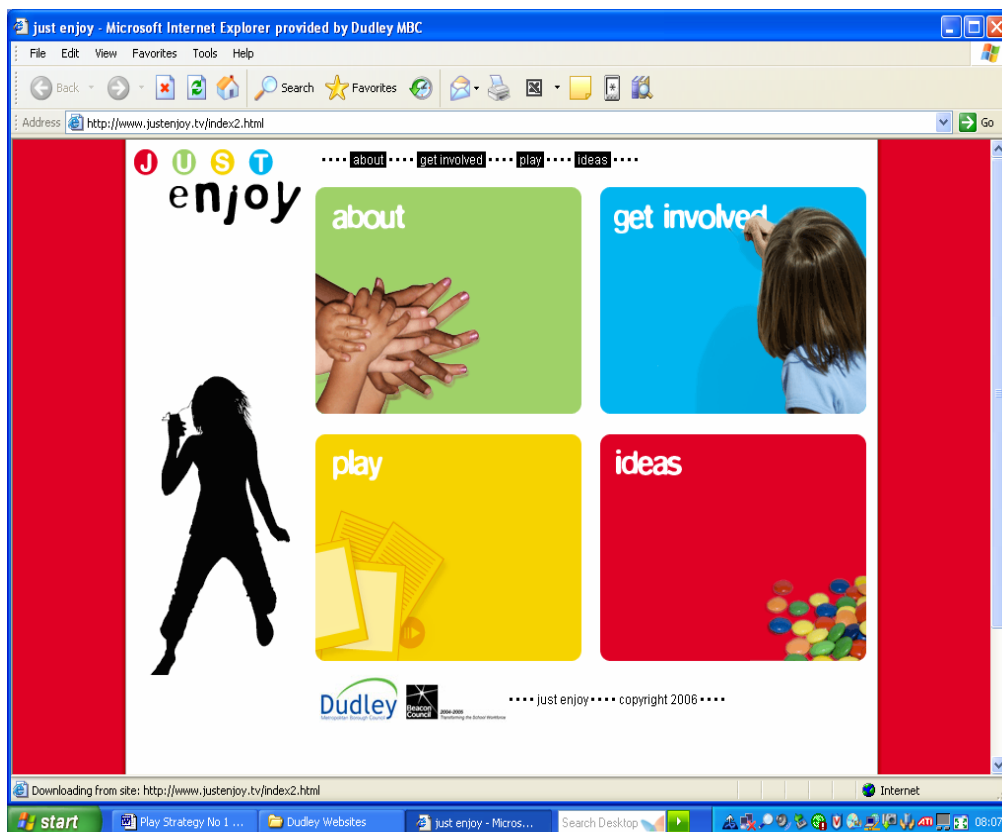
Initial results.

Of the 1,737 children and young people who entered the Just Enjoy Children's Play competition, responses have been received from all age groups with 6% from 0-5 year olds, 43% from 6-9, 38% 10-12 and 12% from 13-16. We also received 1% from 17-19 year olds, mainly from older young people with disabilities.

An initial coding of the data has shown that 41% of the respondents are prioritising physical play, 33% social play and 17% creative play with 9% other forms of play including activities like video games. There has been a general trend for younger children to prioritise physical play and older children and young people to prioritise social activities with friends. Very few have prioritised playing on their own as priority and overwhelmingly play is seen by children and young people in Dudley as something they do with friends and other children.

More examples of children's views, ideas and results can be seen on the Just Enjoy website which will be continually updated over the coming months.

www.justenjoy.tv



Safeguarding.

Please note that written permission from parents and carers has been obtained before any images of children and young people have been published on the website.

Overwhelming support

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received for the programme. Everyone who has engaged with the road show has found it enjoyable and stimulating although their understanding of play and their views of what should be done to improve provision have been wide and far reaching.



Freedom to play

It has been clear from talking with the children and young people that play is very important to them. Although they often understand the restrictions faced with issues around safety and equipped play provision, their freedom to 'play' outside with their friends and with the support and

endorsement of parents, neighbours and adults is extremely important to them and overshadows all other issues.

Intergenerational support and understanding

If the Dudley Play Strategy is to mean anything to the children and young people of the Borough it must represent their views and seek to provide a culture of intergenerational understanding that recognises that children need to play and we all have a duty to support and provide for them.

Social exclusion

One of the comments made by a youngster on the road show illustrates that many children across the Borough are deprived of the basic life experiences that most children take for granted.

"I think the money should be used to let kids like me go on holiday. I've never had a holiday ever and would like one!"



Section Two

Policy

The Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership believes that play is a basic entitlement for every child in Dudley. It is of fundamental importance for children and young people's health and well-being, their relationships, their development and their learning.

Vital element of children's lives

Play is a vital element of all children's lives during their childhood, and to their development into healthy, happy and successful young people and independent adults. Provision for children's play is therefore essential to the health, well-being and prosperity of the wider community and the successful implementation of the aspirations and outcomes as set out in the Dudley Community Challenge - Community Plan, the Council Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

The views, needs, rights and interests of children

The partnership believes that children and young people's views, needs, rights and interests are central to all policy making, and that provision is made to raise their profile and improve their lives and well-being. This policy seeks to improve children's lives by setting out the values and principles necessary to underpin a good, worthwhile and meaningful Play Strategy for Dudley. The strategy will set out proposals for the development of high quality play opportunities and provision across the Borough.

Convention on the rights of the child

The principles in this policy are founded on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which was ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, and recognises the significance and importance of appropriate play, recreation, rest and leisure activities in children's lives. Article 31 of that convention committed its signatories to supporting the child's right to engage in play and recreational activities, and to the promotion of appropriate provision.

Every Child Matters in Dudley

Play is a fundamental part of a healthy and happy childhood and its enjoyment is recognised by government as equally important to other outcomes for children. Because it is so fundamental, it also contributes to each

of the five outcomes for children specified in Every Child Matters – *Being healthy – Staying safe – Enjoying and achieving – Making a positive contribution and - Economic well-being.*

Policy statements

Below are the draft policy statements and objectives which have been endorsed by the Children and Young People's Partnership and used during the last three month consultation programme with children, young people and the general public. We would value your views on these and encourage you to complete and return the response questionnaire at the end of this document.

Play is fundamental to children's health and well-being throughout their childhood and during their transition into adulthood.

- *Children and young people engage in play for its own sake, not for any external goal or reward. Play is a significant and very important part of a child's life and culture and should be treated seriously and resourced appropriately.*
- *Play is critically important to children's physical, emotional and intellectual development and learning. Children and young people exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play. Through play children learn that which cannot be taught but that which can only be learnt through experience, such as self-confidence, self-reliance, creativity and resilience.*
- *A child's development, and their future capacity as an adult, will be affected by their access to a full range of creative, enjoyable and exciting play opportunities.*

Play is a natural and universal activity. It is a process with no necessary outcome.

- *Play is freely chosen, entered into by the child because s/he wishes to do so, personally directed under the control of the child playing, and intrinsically motivated, undertaken because it is satisfying for the child playing. Through play, children and young people find out about themselves, their abilities and interests. Play, therefore is one critical way children come to understand themselves and the world around them. Play helps children and young people to cope with difficult and stressful situations, and fosters social inclusion.*
- *To support the child's right to participate fully in leisure, recreation, physical activity, and play, children and young people's views, needs, rights, and interests, including their full participation, must be sought, listened to and taken into account.*

- *Appropriate risk-taking can be an essential feature of children's and young people's play. Children and young people often want and need to take risks, innovate, and explore in order to find new limits, venture into new experiences and develop new skills, knowledge, understanding and capacities.*

Children and young people want to play, and are entitled to do so, in a variety of public spaces near to their homes. This includes both places designated for play and shared public space.

- *The impact of modern, urban society on children's lives significantly restricts their opportunity to play freely, and has resulted in a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment.*
- *Children, their families and society as a whole, benefit from an environment in which children and young people are able to play in public spaces free from unacceptable hazards and risks.*
- *Specialised play equipment can make a positive contribution to the overall provision. However, play equipment alone is neither necessary nor sufficient to create play environments of quality.*

Many adults, including play workers, childminders, nursery staff, classroom assistants, teachers, head teachers, governors, youth and professional workers, volunteers, parents, carers, relatives, neighbours and friends have a significant role in supporting and enabling children's play.

- *They can help ensure that children and young people have access to stimulating and challenging play environments.*
- *They can help children to experience appropriate and acceptable levels of risk whilst ensuring that all children and young people are safeguarded and kept safe from accidents, harm or bullying from other children or adults and from serious injury or death.*

Outcomes for play

Some children, due to their personal or family circumstances, or their social, economic and physical environment, have more limited access to play opportunities than others. Therefore, the play needs of these children should be prioritised within the Council's policies and strategies.

The six objectives below form part of the draft play policy and are designed to inform the debate and future implementation of the Dudley Play Strategy, its action plan and planned outcomes for children.

Objective 1

- Promote the importance of play in relation to children and young people's health, safety, physical, emotional and economic well-being and their personal, social, and intellectual development, to all those that have a responsibility and influence over their upbringing, education, safety and well-being.

Objective 2

- To make appropriate public spaces as child friendly as possible, ensuring that parks, thoroughfares, nurseries, children's centres, schools, youth settings, housing estates and other public spaces within the Borough, are as safe and conducive as possible to children's play and outdoor activities.

Objective 3

- Develop a strategic and interdependent approach to the management and allocation of available play resources and funding, striking a balance based on need between supervised and unsupervised provision.

Objective 4

- Work towards ensuring that a wider range of play opportunities are available for disabled children and young people, and that all provision aims towards becoming fully inclusive and accessible.

Objective 5

- Work to ensure that all play providers actively seek to address the views, needs, rights, and interests of children and young people, particularly from hard-to-reach communities and those at risk from social exclusion including those children and young people looked after by the local authority.

Objective 6

- Aim to offer all children and young people the chance to encounter acceptable risks in stimulating, exciting and challenging play environments.

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Recommendation.

It is recommended that the policy statements and objectives contained in Section Two of this strategy are approved by all partners and we invite respondents to support the Children and Young People's Partnership - Manifesto for Children's Play using the response form at page 40.

Thank you.

Gill Cooper
Chairperson
1/9/2006



*Ian Austin, Member of Parliament for Dudley North and member of the All Parliamentary Group on Children's Play visits the Just Enjoy road show at Himley Hall and talks to Kirsty and Ed, our road show peer mentors.
June 2006*

Section Three

Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Initiative

Big Lottery Fund Application

The next part of the document details the approach that is being taken to develop the elements required by the Big Lottery Fund as part of the assessment process for the children's play initiative. The purpose of the section is to describe in more detail the background, audit and methodology for selection, prioritisation and allocation of the £690,320 of lottery funding.

Please note that this section is incomplete and will be developed further over the next four months. The final Play Strategy and Big Lottery Fund play portfolio will emerge from the completed audit of need and provision, the results of this consultation process and the application and prioritisation process as outlined in this section. The final strategy will be presented to the Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership in early 2007 ready for submission to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007.

Invitation to Chief Executives

In November 2005, the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) wrote to all local authority Chief Executives about the funding being made available to improve play provision across England. The fund made indicative allocations of funding to each local authority area based on child population and weighted by deprivation. Dudley has been allocated £690,320 for the programme.

Guidance

The BLF children's play initiative guidance was published on 28th March 2006 and sets out the background rationale, application framework and timetable for implementation. The aim of the programme is to create, improve and develop inclusive play provision across England. To access the funding local authorities must produce a play strategy, which sets out the local priorities, procedures and intended outcomes for the programme. The play strategy must be placed within the context of existing national and local strategies including the Community Plan, the Council Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

In December 2005, the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) agreed to oversee the development of the play strategy working together with the statutory, voluntary and community partners represented on the Dudley

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Community Partnership (LSP) - Physical Activity Task Group (PATG) and Environmental Task Group (ETG).

Dudley Play Partnership

In addition, the group agreed to establish the *Dudley Children's Play Initiative Working Party* to lead on developing the play strategy in consultation with all partners, particularly children and young people, and bring forward a portfolio of projects for submission to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007.

Following the development and endorsement of the Dudley Play Strategy and portfolio the working group will become the *Dudley Play Partnership* to oversee, implement, support and monitor the agreed programme.

Policy framework

As a first step, the working party agreed to draft a simple policy framework to set the overall vision for all future activity on children's play in the Borough. This was not intended to be a comprehensive rationale or position paper on children's play, but simply a first step towards delivering better play outcomes for children and young people in Dudley.

Planning for Play

Drawing heavily on the BLF children's play initiative guidance *Planning for Play* (March 2006), the CYPP agreed the draft policy statements and objectives together with the proposed outcomes for the Dudley Play Strategy in May 2006. *Planning for Play* offers the following definition of the term play which is helpful. "Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter."

Taken from Best Play – NPFA/PLAYLINK/Children's Play Council 2001.

Scope of the policy

From the outset, it was recognised that the terms 'play' and 'children' may disengage some older children and young people from the programme. Therefore, the CYPP adopted a more inclusive project title of 'JUST ENJOY,' chosen explicitly to match the outcomes of the Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and Youth Matters agenda.

Fit for purpose

In designing the play strategy the partnership has been conscious that the scope and format of the document must be fit for purpose. It has been important that the strategy represents and addresses the needs and aspirations of the children and young people as well as providing a framework for future operational decisions by the Council and other community and statutory partners. In addition, other policy initiatives, including children's centres, extended schools, the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund, the work of the Dudley Youth Council and the Dudley Youth Council Manifesto need consideration.

Useful and relevant

If the strategy is to be successful, the policy statements need to be clear and unambiguous and provide a useful touchstone for future policy makers and funding bodies. For example, they must be relevant and useful to the Police when dealing with issues around intergenerational complaints and possible anti-social behaviour and planners when considering applications for housing development and transportation issues.

Children and Young People's Plan

The Children and Young People's Partnership Children and Young People's Plan stresses the need for all children and young people to be accepted and take their place in a strong community. The plan supports activities that enable all children and young people to take part in the full range of play and leisure activities. The plan lists the desirable outcomes for children and young people.

- Are healthy, with a good sense of mental well-being.
- Take an interest in where they live and have a sense of belonging.
- Know their neighbours and are tolerant of people different from themselves.
- Help and support one another through friendship and shared activities.
- Have the opportunity to be creative and celebrate their cultural heritage.
- Work together to take pride in their community.
- Look out for each other, especially those less fortunate than themselves.
- Make appropriate use of facilities in the areas, particularly the opportunities to develop leisure time interests.
- Have opportunities to do well in their education and pursue other learning interests.
- Enjoy a good standard of living and are supported into rewarding jobs.
- Provide positive role models for each other and the wider community.
- Feel safe and that they have control over their lives.

- Are able to affect decisions about their lives and the delivery of local services.
- Have a good idea about what is on offer from service providers and how to access those services.
- Have pride in and care for their environment.

National aspirations

In promoting the aims of the strategy the CYPP supports the Big Lottery Fund and Play England's aspiration to...

- Create, improve and develop children and young people's free local play spaces and provide good, inclusive and accessible children's play services and facilities.
- Create, improve and develop children and young people's free local play spaces and opportunities throughout England, according to need.
- Support innovation and new ways of providing for children's play.
- Create a support and development infrastructure to ensure local agencies have the resources and skills to achieve the first two aims.
- Promote the long-term strategic and sustainable provision for play as a free public service to children.
- Ensure that local authorities work with other local stakeholders to develop children's play strategies and plans.
- Ensure that good, inclusive and accessible children's play services and facilities are provided locally.

Definition of play

The strategy has adopted the definition of play as outlined in the DCMS/DfES review of children's play *Getting Serious about Play* published in 2004 and the DCMS cross departmental Government report *Time for Play* in August 2006.

"Play means what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons".

In our consultation with children and young people we have developed the following list of activities which describes what play is for them.

Running, climbing, skipping, hiding, playing games, jumping, practising cartwheels, throwing and kicking balls, making friends and falling out,

growing things and telling stories, making music, climbing trees, taking risks, getting wet, exploring nature, building dens and getting dirty, dressing up, digging holes, swinging on tyres, shouting, inventing games, making things, painting pictures, talking with friends, just sitting about, having a good time and loads of fun.

National Play Strategy for England

In 2002, a Government-funded, (DCMS) research programme into Children's Play undertaken by the Children's Play Council, revealed a dearth of strategic development in children's play provision and a long term decline in investment. The report highlighted the possible serious consequences for children and young people's physical, emotional and social health and development if the lack of play provision continued to deteriorate.

This work led to a recommendation that there should be national play strategy for England which would support and guide local authorities, voluntary organisations, community groups and other local agencies in providing a comprehensive range of free, inclusive spaces and opportunities for children's play.

Getting Serious About Play

In 2004, the report of the National Play Review, Getting Serious About Play (DCMS) 2004, chaired by Frank Dobson MP, recommended that a targeted strategic lottery programme for play provision should seek to create thousands of free, inclusive play spaces based on the needs and wishes of local children and young people. It recommended that the investment should be long-term, sustainable and strategic, with local authorities being given responsibility for coordinating plans with local partners. In January 2005, the government welcomed this review and its recommendations and announced that a cross-departmental strategic agenda for play would be established. In March 2005, the Big Lottery Fund announced a £155m fund to be based upon the Dobson recommendations with particular emphasis on strategic development.

Enjoy and achieve

In addition, the Minister for Children stated that play will receive greater attention within the Every Child Matters inspection framework, as a key aspect of the 'enjoy and achieve' outcome of the change for children programme. More access to active, outdoor play opportunities has also been identified within the Choosing Health Physical Activity Action Plan (DOH), as a key to combating childhood obesity making the play agenda a serious issue for all Councils, Children's Services, Local Strategic Partnerships and Children and Young People's Partnerships.

Cross departmental national strategy

The Children's Play Council and the Children's Play Policy Forum recommend a cross-departmental national strategy for play that engages with the Every Child Matters, Choosing Health and Cleaner Safer Greener agendas and with other initiatives in the area of community regeneration in order to establish a cohesive programme of long-term investment. The following recommended objectives set a useful agenda for the development of a play strategy for Dudley and are listed in full for information and background.

Open spaces

- A major focus on local streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, to make them safe, attractive play places for children and young people.

Supervised settings

- A pilot programme of supervised settings in the 100 most deprived areas, offering school-aged children and young people places to meet. These should have a range of indoor and outdoor activities, be inclusive and attractive to all local children and be free of charge. The centres, developed with local children, young people and communities, should be community resources offering a range of adventurous and challenging structured and unstructured activities and should be staffed by skilled play workers.

Play Rangers

- The development of teams of 'play rangers' in parks and open spaces in every town and city. These will be appropriately trained, child-friendly staff who get involved in activities and events, as well as helping to safeguard the parks and playgrounds in their area.

Upgrading existing equipped play areas

- A rolling 10-year investment programme to upgrade England's estimated 30,000 local play areas at a rate of 3,000 per year so they are welcoming, inclusive and, most important of all, enjoyable.

Extended Schools

- An expectation that all extended schools offering services to the wider community will provide good, year round, supervised and unsupervised outdoor play opportunities for children and young people from the school and the local neighbourhood.

Children Centres and childcare provision

- A commitment that all new childcare provision, children's centres and provision through extended schools should be inclusive and meet minimum standards for the quantity and quality of indoor and outdoor space, designed for children's physically active and creative play.

New Housing Development

- Legislation to ensure that all new housing developments employ child friendly design principles based on home zones, meet minimum standards for the quantity and quality of outdoor space and incorporate the development of flexible spaces whose uses can change over time in response to changes in local needs and wishes.

Play provision

- In every locality there will be a range of free, well maintained, good quality, culturally appropriate, supervised, semi-supervised and unsupervised play provision which meets the expressed needs of the vast majority of local children and young people.

Benefits

The benefits to children and young people will be that: -

- All this provision will be accessible, welcoming and engaging for children and young people who are disabled or have specific needs.
- Where they wish, children and young people and their families will be active participants in the development and management of this provision.
- All those working in play provision, whether paid or as volunteers, will be valued and able to get the training and support they need to provide for the children and young people's play needs.
- Local parks and open spaces will provide well maintained, welcoming play environments offering children and young people space and variety.
- Children and parents will feel confident that their local streets and neighbourhoods are safe places for play.
- All schools will recognise the role of play in education and development by ensuring that children have the time, resources, environments and supervision necessary by providing good play opportunities.
- Good play provision will be protected, maintained and developed to ensure it continues to meet local need.

Outcomes

The outcomes for children and young people will be: -

- The enjoyment of play and recreation
- Enhanced informal learning
- Better physical, mental and emotional health
- Develop social skills and responsibility
- Appreciation of the environment
- Understanding of risk and challenge
- Growing identity and self esteem
- Greater participation in sport, art and culture
- Reduced risk of offending and anti-social behaviour.

These statements have been taken from a paper published by the Children's Play Council in May 2005 which set out the agenda for the DCMS cross departmental Government report *Time for Play* published in August 2006.

Overall, the Dudley Play Strategy seeks to support the objectives set out in *Time for Play* but realises that much of this will take time. However, setting out our own policy statements, objectives and outcomes will be an important step towards improving play opportunities for children across Dudley.

Community participation and engagement

Following discussions with members of the Dudley Community Partnership (LSP) and outside agencies including Urban Play Solutions and Play England it was decided to begin the community engagement and consultation programme with a three month road show around the Borough. This began in June 2006 and concluded after the August Bank Holiday.

Over 7,000 consultation cards were distributed and over 4,000 children and young people participated in the activities. An analysis of the findings can be seen at www.justenjoy.tv

In addition, a wide range of stakeholders and community organisations have been contacted individually or through a local and regional press campaign. The Just Enjoy programme received front page coverage in the regional evening newspaper during August 2006.

Action Plan timetable for development, consultation and implementation

The overall action plan timetable for the development, consultation and implementation of the programme is listed below.

November – December 2005

- Initial discussions with key stakeholders on the approach to the programme and issues around leadership, management and consultation.

January – March 2006

- Consultation with the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP).

March – May 2006

- Development of the policy statements and key objectives.
- Development of the promotion and participation programme with children, young people, parents and carers and wider community.
- Road show commissioned including project design, marketing, press campaign and website.

June – August 2006

- Play Strategy road show launched across the Borough. Over twenty venues and activities selected to cover a wide range of interests, social and geographical areas.
- Launch of the Just Enjoy website (www.justenjoy.tv)

August – October 2006

- Programme opens for applications with regional press campaign.

September – November 2006

- Consultation on policy statements and objectives, analysis of the audit, and applications for funding.

November – December 2006

- The prioritisation and development of the project portfolio.

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January – February 2007

- Endorsement by the Children and Young People's Partnership and Local Strategic Partnership appeals process.

March 2007

- Submission to the Big Lottery Fund for assessment.

September 2007

- Funding awarded and projects begin. Monitoring and evaluation programme begins.

December 2010

- Lottery programme closes with final report and recommendations for sustainability.

Audit methodology

Although Dudley Council has a long tradition of supporting the provision of *equipped children's play areas* in public parks and open spaces across the Borough, this is the first time a broad approach has been taken in engaging the views of children and young people and members of the local community in children's play. The opportunity to involve a large number of children and young people with partners of the local strategic partnership and members of the community has provided an opportunity to review present policy and provision and take a fresh look at what is meant by children's play.

Children's Services

The appointment of the Director of Children's Services in October 2005 and the designation of a Commissioner for Children and Young People in April 2006, has provided a unique opportunity to focus upon outcomes for children rather than simple processes and provision. The remodelling of the Council and the move towards a Children's Trust for Dudley also provides new opportunities to promote and support children's play across the Borough.

Recent Investment

Recent investment by the Big Lottery Fund of £372,000 through the Transforming Your Space programme and £3.4 million through the ODPM Liveability programme has enabled the Council to transform many of the public parks and open spaces around the Borough. Consultation with the 26 Friends of Public Parks around the Borough identified the need of improved provision for children and young people, particularly around provision of children's play areas and provision for sport and physical activity.

Physical activity and obesity

The work of the Dudley LSP - Physical Activity Task Group (PATG) with members from the primary care trusts, leisure and cultural services, transport and children's services, has supported the provision of 2 hours of high quality physical education and physical activity with children and young people (5-16) across the Borough. Participation rates in Dudley for 2004/5 were 73% (69% nationally) and in 2005/6 84% (75% nationally). Although data on individual children's play is not yet available, a new programme sponsored by the Big Lottery Fund and the PCT will allow all Dudley children and young people the opportunity to record their free play time and access provision across the Borough using a new access card. (See www.activemag.net)

An audit of play spaces

An essential element of the final play strategy will be the systematic review of the types of spaces that children across the Borough consider suitable for play. A triangulated approach to the audit has been adopted based on three sources of data. The three areas adopted are as follows.

Desk top research (June- October 2006)

Desk top research building on data collated from the open space and green space strategies, skate park strategy and the work developed for the Transforming Your Space, Liveability and Active England programmes.

Participation road show (June – August 2006)

Results of the participation road show with children, young people and community members including open air workshops, face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, competitions, online questionnaires, multimedia and artwork workshops.

Just Enjoy applications (August – October 2006)

Open invitation to children, young people and community partners to come forward with proposals for meeting play need in their community.

Coding and Analysis

Following the coding and analysis of all of sources of data, an action plan for development will be designed including those projects selected for submission to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007.

Emerging issues

The three month consultation with children and young people across the Borough has revealed that young people have a desire to play and hang out in almost all publicly accessible space that includes streets, town centres, parks, playing fields and amenity areas as well as the more recognisable facilities such as equipped play and multi-use games areas.

Involving children and young people.

Although considerable investment and funding has been targeted into equipped play areas in public parks and open spaces across the Borough, few children and young people identified these areas as *'their own'* as few seem to feel they have been consulted or involved in their development. As the consultation road show moved across the Borough it became clear that future play provision and activities must not be restricted just to designated *'reservations'* of play, sport or leisure provision provided by the Council. If the strategy is to meet the needs of all children and young people across the Borough, every attempt must be made to make all environments that children choose to inhabit suitable and as safe as possible for active play purposes.

Small equipped play areas.

Early indications are that we may well need to reduce the number of less used and well equipped play areas across the Borough in favour of improving provision overall. Children and young people are not necessarily placing a value on the traditional small Council managed equipped areas. These are seen by children and young people as out-of-date and provide little play value. Often the cost of maintenance and refurbishment provides poor value for money when Council funding is hard to find.

Recent investment in equipped play areas.

Following successful applications to the Big Lottery Fund Transforming Your Space and ODPM Liveability programmes considerable investment has been made in improving play areas in public parks. The Council has placed the regeneration of public parks as a high priority for the well-being, health and enjoyment for children, young people and members of the community. Most people live within 20 minutes of a public park and therefore it will be essential to place any new and improved play areas at the heart of the equipped play area management and provision for the Borough.

Section 106 agreements

It has been a tradition for the Council to use the funding generated under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 106 for the development of equipped play areas within designated geographical areas of planning

development. Section 106 'planning gain' agreements based on the recommendations of NPFA six acre standard, are currently used to secure both capital and revenue monies to provide play areas within the locality of new developments. As part of the play strategy implementation programme, Dudley may wish to review its framework for the negotiation and use of Section 106 agreements in respect of children's play. It is proposed that this policy is continued but aligns with the developing local standards for play and supports future action plans and decisions by the new Dudley Play Partnership.

Parks for people and play

Dudley Council maintains a wide range of public open spaces ranging from informal local amenity green spaces to five formal and staffed public parks. Recognised as one of the leading parks authorities within the West Midlands, the £3.5 million ODPM Liveability programme has funded a significant parks for people improvement programme. The main aim of this project being to create a self-sustaining network of community groups that will work in partnership with the Council towards the regeneration of the parks and open spaces. Improving green spaces for use by children and young people is a key aim of this programme.

Play activities

A range of organised community events take place within parks and open spaces across the Borough with the aim of increasing participation by young people in healthy outdoor activities. These include:

Sport

Supervised multi-sport sessions include games such as mini-soccer, rounders, cricket and fun athletics.

Family Fun Days

Park held events that aim to cater for all members of the family and involve a range of sport, health walks, dance, drama and craft workshops.

After School Clubs

These aim to provide children and young people with the opportunity to gain some skills in a variety of sports within the community parks, away from the school setting. Qualified coaches offer a six week programme covering valuable core aspects of the chosen sports. This is helping to maximise parks usage by children and young people.

Play areas

There are fifty two play areas situated within the Borough all of which are maintained by the Council and undergo a formal safety inspection and cleanse three times per week. All of the areas have been assessed for their accessibility by disabled people and there is a continual ongoing programme of refurbishment.

Standards and typology of play space

A strategic audit of play space across the Borough is currently being undertaken with the aim of identifying where and what kind of play opportunities there are, the overall quality of the play opportunities and their general accessibility. In order to select, code and make sense of the available data, a typology for play space has been proposed based upon the principles that play opportunities should be:

- **free of charge**
- **where children are free to come and go**
- **where they are free to choose what they do.**

These standards mirror closely the areas currently being used by the Children's Play Council as part of a pilot CPA performance indicator programme. It is hoped that this will enable Dudley to measure its performance against nationally recognised benchmarking criteria.

A typology of Dudley's play space

The list below categorises the designations for describing play space across the Borough. Although it is not intended to list every single space or play space during the audit, the typology will enable the Council to build, over time, a comprehensive map of the children's play space across the Borough to help inform and support future policy, planning and funding decisions. Over the next twelve months, it will be an aim of the Council to map and monitor the play provision with regard to the categories below using various methods including the local GIS database.

Local standards for play.

The local standards for play will aim to provide a range of free play experiences within reasonable walking, cycling or travelling distance from where children and young people live and play. It is proposed that the strategy should work towards at least three play experiences being available within twenty minutes walking distance of where children and young people live.

Types of play facilities

Door-step spaces and facilities

- Small equipped play areas furnished primarily for young children
- Neighbourhood amenity green spaces (unequipped)
- Home zone, traffic calming or equivalent.

Neighbourhood spaces and facilities

- Large equipped play areas primarily for children aged 5–11
- Satellite parks
- Junior bike, skate and skateboard facilities kick-about areas.

Local spaces and facilities for play

Supervised

- Adventure playgrounds
- Open access play centres
- Open access play schemes
- Play ranger and outreach play projects.

No formal supervision

- School playgrounds (open out of school hours)
- Neighbourhood equipped play areas (eight+ items)
- Teenage wheeled sports area
- Ball courts, multi-use games areas
- hangout/youth shelters
- Public parks
- Playing fields/recreation grounds freely available for children to use.
- canals, woodlands and natural areas.

By cross checking the above provision with other relevant indices it will be possible to identify gaps in provision and future priorities. For example, the correlation of crime and anti-social behaviour statistics to the provision of area related facilities and play activities.

Risk, challenge and play standards

During the road show consultation programme it emerged that whilst most parents and children placed a high priority on safe places to play, this could be misinterpreted as referring simply to the safety of equipped play areas and general play equipment. Ensuring equipped play areas are safe and all equipment is maintained to the required standards is important but the consultation has also demonstrated that above all, what is needed are play areas that are socially safe and free from the fear of attack, intimidation or

bullying. Children need to feel an important part of the community not only by their parents but by their neighbours and their peers.

Promoting the value of play

It was felt that more needs to be done to explain and describe the importance of play to a wider audience. All too often, some members of the general public see children and young people together in public spaces as a threat, out of control and unsafe to themselves and others. It will be important for the play strategy to balance the need for children to experience acceptable risk and overcome challenges within an atmosphere of support and acceptance. Play provision that does not cater for this need could fail and children will seek their thrills elsewhere. A degree of managed risk in play provision is therefore essential.

Fear of accidents

The Law requires providers to assess and manage risk and adopt strategies to minimise accidents and injuries. This can sometimes lead to play environments that offer little real challenge or enjoyment and the development of often sterile and un-stimulating play spaces. Not only can this be a poor use of resources but has led to the development of large and expensive facilities that are often underused by children and become a target for vandalism and abuse. Accidents cannot be eliminated. Indeed, it can be argued that falls and scrapes in childhood are not accidents at all, but part of growing up, learning about boundaries and how to manage risk. Both the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Courts widely accept this principle.

Balancing risk

Fundamental to the development of Dudley's Play Strategy is the need to ensure that policies and risk management procedures provide the right balance between children's needs and wishes and providers concerns about having a robust defence against claims for negligence. Sensible health and safety is about managing risks, not eliminating them all. The HSE has stated that it not in the business of stamping out children's simple pleasures.

*"We recognise the benefits to children's development of play, which necessarily involves some risk, and this shouldn't be sacrificed in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety."
Health and Safety Executive 2005*

Development Office

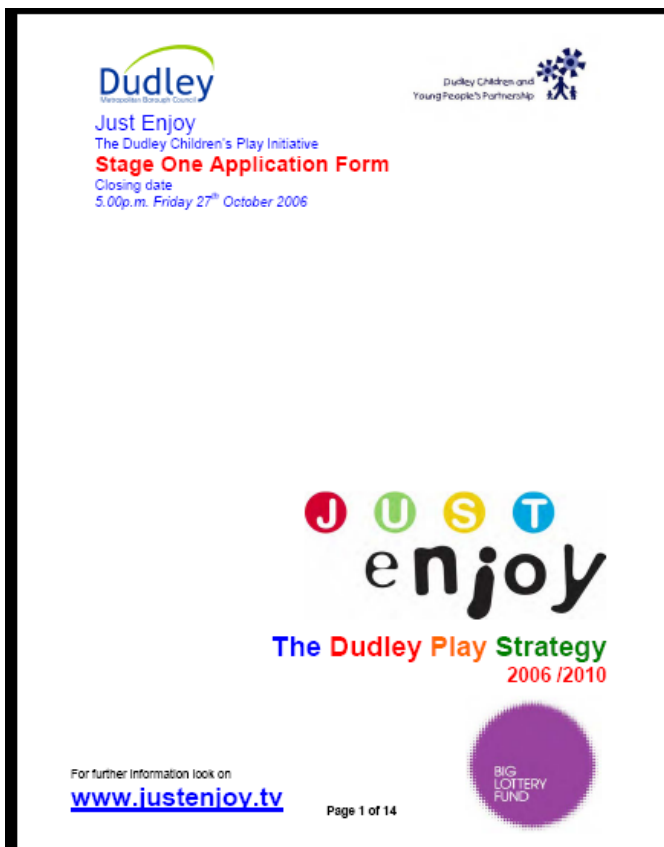
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Managing risk

Therefore, it is proposed that all play activities funded through the Just Enjoy programme are planned and managed using the Council's online risk assessment and management service at www.offsiteimg.net. Over the last three years, over 12,000 activities have been planned and approved with no accident or claim against the Council's insurers on an offsite activity being made in that time.

Application process.

As part of the development of the Big Lottery Fund children's play initiative we are inviting groups and organisations to apply for funding. Below are some extracts from the application form which can be found on the Just Enjoy website.

Just Enjoy Application Form

Children and young people across Dudley are telling us that play is a vital element of their lives and their development into healthy, happy and successful young people and independent adults. Dudley Council, Dudley Community Partnership (LSP), Play England, Skills Active, Urban Play Solutions, the Big Lottery Fund and children and young people across Dudley are working hard to develop a play strategy for Dudley. We have involved over 4000 children and young people so far and decided to call the strategy **Just Enjoy**.

You can visit our new website and learn more about the programme at www.justenjoy.tv.

An invitation to get involved.

We would like to invite you to apply for lottery funding from the £690,320 Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Initiative to help us improve free play provision across Dudley for all children.

How much can we apply for?

You can apply for funding to support children's play for ages of 5 – 16 years and older young people if they are disabled or have a learning disability. You can apply for between £5,000 and £150,000 to fund up to three years of play activities or projects across Dudley. This can include new equipment, funding for staff and play rangers, training, special play projects and programmes, transport, or anything that will help Dudley children and young people to access things they like and enjoy for free.

Section 1: Group / Organisation details
 1.1 Your Group / Organisation name. (Individuals cannot apply to this fund)
 What is the name of your group / organisation?

Your details as Main Contact

Title	First name	Surname
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Your position in your Group or Organisation e.g. Chairperson

1.2 Group / Organisation address (This can be a group member's home address or office address)
 Your group / organisation's address.

Postcode Fax number (if applicable)

Phone number (or textphone) Email address (if applicable)

Mobile number Web address

1.3 When did your group / organisation start?
 Month Year

1.4 What are the main activities of your group/ organisation?

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Who can apply?

Groups of two or more children and young people, parents and carers can apply if they work with a **partner organisation**.

Section 2: About your project
 2.1 Project name
 What is the name of your project? (We need a name for your project so make one up.)

2.2 Project summary
 Briefly describe your project, telling us what you plan to do.
This section is very important and will decide if we take your application further.

Where will your project take place? (Please include post code areas here)

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A **partner organisation** will be a constituted voluntary or community organisation, a non profit sharing organisation, a local authority, health or other statutory organisation but all organisations must involve children and young people in the planning and management of the play project.

We want to encourage applications that:-

- Promote the importance of play.
- Address the views, needs, rights, and interests of children and young people.
- Make appropriate public spaces as child friendly as possible.
- Ensure that a wide range of play opportunities are available for disabled children and young people and those who are disadvantaged or at risk of social exclusion.
- Provide the chance for all children and young people to encounter acceptable risks.

Making an application

We would like to invite your **group or organisation** to apply for lottery funding to support the 'Just Enjoy' Dudley Play Strategy. The programme will be funded by the Big Lottery Fund from its £155 million Children's Play Initiative. We have £690,320 available to fund projects in Dudley.

Making things simple.

We want to make applying for this funding as simple as possible. Just fill out the form and send it in. You won't get anything if you don't apply!

Do you have a good idea?

If you have a good idea on how to help children and young people across Dudley enjoy their free play time just complete the form below and send it in by **5.00p.m. on Friday 27th October 2006**.

What difference do you want to make?

Use the application form to tell us *what difference you want to make* for children and young people in Dudley. You can see the kind of things we can fund on the Just Enjoy website www.justenjoy.tv or just telephone 0800 862 0 862 and listen to the free advice line.

Who decides about your project?

When we have received your application form a local panel of children, young people and play experts will look at your application. We will write to you about the panel's decision on Friday 10th November 2006.

What happens next?

If we decide to take your project forward to the second stage we will invite you to a meeting so you can explain a little more about your project. The meeting will take place at Saltwells EDC in Netherton at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 21st November 2006. All second stage applicants will be required to attend so you can tell us more about your project. You will need to bring more information and any plans, photos or videos etc. All second stage applications will then have to be endorsed by the Dudley Community Partnership (LSP) before they can go forward to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007. The final decision about your project will be taken by the Big Lottery Fund in London. The fund will let us know by July 2007 so you will have to wait until then to hear if your project has been successful.

What happens if you are unsuccessful?

If your application is unsuccessful we will write to you and offer advice about further funding where possible.

Where do you need to send your application form?

We would like you to email your application form to the Just Enjoy team at apply@justenjoy.tv You will get a reply saying we have received your application.

You must also sign and post a paper copy to:

Just Enjoy
 Directorate of Children's Services
 Westox House
 1 Trinity Road
 Dudley DY1 1JQ

Your paper and email application form must reach us by 5.00p.m on Friday 27th October 2006. Applications and emails received after this time and date will not be considered.

For a copy in large print call us on 01384 813716

Project Name (this should be as it appears in Section 2.1)
 This will enable us to match your declaration to your stage one application form if these have been sent separately.

Signatory one (as in 1.1)
 Name of the group / organisation

Name of main contact as given in section one

I am authorised by the group/ organisation to send you this stage one application form

Name (Please PRINT)	Position
Signature	Date

Signatory two (as in 1.6)
 Name of the partner organisation (if required)

Name of main contact as given in section 1.6

I am authorised by the group/ organisation to send you this stage one application form

Name (Please PRINT)	Position
Signature	Date

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Section Four

The Dudley Play Strategy Consultation Document

Response Form

We would like to invite you to comment on the overall play strategy by completing the following response form.

Please send your responses to the address at the end of this form and thank you for participating in the next stage of developing the play strategy for Dudley.

To be completed by respondents

I wish to support the Dudley Children and Young People's Partnership policy statements and objectives and agree to endorse the manifesto for children's play.

Name

Position/Post

Organisation

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Signed

Date

Development Office

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Westox House 1 Trinity Road Dudley West Midlands. DY1 1JQ
Tel: 01384 813716 Fax: 01384 814216 www.dudley.gov.uk

Please record your comments below.

Policy Statements.

Play is fundamental to children's health and well-being throughout their childhood and during their transition into adulthood.

Comments

Play is a natural and universal activity. It is a process with no necessary outcome.

Comments

Children and young people want to play, and are entitled to do so, in a variety of public spaces near to their homes. This includes both places designated for play and shared public space.

Comments

Many adults, including play workers, childminders, nursery staff, classroom assistants, teachers, head teachers, governors, youth and professional workers, volunteers, parents, carers, relatives, neighbours and friends have a significant role in supporting and enabling children's play.

Comments

Outcomes for play

Objective 1

- Promote the importance of play in relation to children and young people's health, safety, physical, emotional and economic well-being and their personal, social, and intellectual development, to all those that have a responsibility and influence over their upbringing, education, safety and well-being.

Comments

Objective 2

- To make appropriate public spaces as child friendly as possible, ensuring that parks, thoroughfares, nurseries, children's centres, schools, youth settings, housing estates and other public spaces within the Borough, are as safe and conducive as possible to children's play and outdoor activities.

Comments

Objective 3

- Develop a strategic and interdependent approach to the management and allocation of available play resources and funding, striking a balance based on need between supervised and unsupervised provision.

Comments

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Objective 4

- Work towards ensuring that a wider range of play opportunities are available for disabled children and young people, and that all provision aims towards becoming fully inclusive and accessible.

Comments

Objective 5

- Work to ensure that all play providers actively seek to address the views, needs, rights, and interests of children and young people, particularly from hard-to-reach communities and those at risk from social exclusion including those children and young people looked after by the local authority.

Comments

Objective 6

- Aim to offer all children and young people the chance to encounter acceptable risks in stimulating, exciting and challenging play environments.

Comments

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Overall comments

Please send your written comments to

Linda Edwards
Executive Support Team
Directorate of Children's Services
Westox House
Trinity Road
Dudley
DY1 1JQ

Email Linda.Edwards@dudley.gov.uk

Race Equality Monitoring

We would like to invite you to complete the equality monitoring form below.
 Please tick the box which best describes your ethnicity. Thank you.

Asian and Asian British	<i>Please tick</i>
Bangladeshi	
Indian	
Pakistani	
Other Asian background (Please specify)	
Black or Black British	
African	
Caribbean	
Other Black	
Chinese	
Other ethnic group (Please specify)	
Mixed background	
Asian & White	
Black African & White	
Black Caribbean & White	
Other Mixed (Please specify)	
White	
White British	
White Irish	
Other White(Please specify)	
Disability	
I have a disability	
I do not have a disability	
<i>(Disability as defined under the DDA as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities.)</i>	
Gender	
I am male	
I am female	
Age	
0 – 11	
12 - 16	
17 – 20	
21 – 45	
46 - 60	
Over 60	