

Review of Belfast City Council Play Service Action Plan

	Recommendation	Action	Activities	Timescale	Benefits
1.	BCC consider a phased exit from pre-school playgroups due to evidence of excess supply over demand.	Final delivery of BCC pre school service during 2008/09 academic year	To assist parents with identification of other services in local area To provide support for other services where feasible in order to develop capacity to support children to attend	2008/2009	Support for local communities in line with evidence need Support for local services where gaps are identified Resources released for service development
2.	To undertake mapping and evidence gathering in order to better inform delivery at capital based playcentres.	To examine need in areas where current playcentre service is located	To identify population of children and young people in local area To identify alternative service provision To identify and where appropriate support alternative ways services can be provided	2008 - 2010	To inform decision regarding any potential relocation of services To minimise impact on local community To develop capacity within local communities
		To initiate identified changes in areas where current play service is located for the 5-11 age range	To implement changes	2010	More targeted service Capacity is developed in area Children benefit from the provision of play services

3.	To develop and work in partnership with both internal and external stakeholders to deliver pilot projects for the 4-11 and 12-16 age groups.	To develop and deliver three pilot projects – to include 12 to 16 age range and outdoor play	Identification of potential partners – external / internal Identification of geographical area for projects Development, delivery and evaluation	2008/2009	Partnership delivery to maximise play value of all BCC assets eg parks, leisure centres, community centres, etc Develop capacity and improve sustainability of community providers Targeting gaps Contributing to development of children and young people and reduction in anti-social behaviour
		Development of new services	Delivery of services in other geographical areas Implementation of pilots in other areas Development of new pilot projects Implementation of needs analysis (mapping exercise) Older age range is targeted	2010	Targeting need Capacity building Partnership development More flexible service Increased numbers of children and young people benefiting from service
		Capacity building	Play staff involved in supporting community groups through training, advice, information and sharing of resources Play staff providing 'hands on' support (for a set period of time)	2008/2009	Community groups supported to provide services Partnerships developed with community groups Increased numbers of children and young people benefiting from service

4.	Maintain the play staff team and develop and maximise skills.	Staff development and training	Development of skills and resources to meet changes in service delivery	2008/2009	More experienced and skilled staff Resources to support service delivery Cascade intelligence to partners
		Resource development	Ongoing staff development Resources developed for use throughout community services and by community groups	2008/2009	Skilled staff team Increased information Ongoing support for staff and community groups
5.	Improve processes and evidence base in order to inform best practice and to align with the corporate strategy for children and young people.	To initiate mapping exercise	Map demographics To identify areas where there are low levels of services for children and young people To identify range of services and initiatives	2008-2010	To develop a needs led service To maximise impact of play service Identification of potential community partnerships and initiatives
		Information gathering	Policy and funding issues Demographics Play initiatives	ongoing	Informed service Service able to meet needs and be pro-active
		Evaluation process	Development of processes to include consultation with children, young people, communities, partners and staff	2008/2009	More informed service delivery

6.	Inter-departmental strategy and branding of summer programme for children and young people.	To participate in interdepartmental working groups	<p>Play team involved in contributing to interdepartmental initiatives</p> <p>Play team organising range of events for children and young people</p>	2008 - 2010	<p>More effective co-ordination of BCC services</p> <p>Recognition of contribution BCC makes to services for children and young people</p>
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