



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Summer Play Schemes 2010
Date:	13 January 2010
Reporting Officer:	Tim Husbands Acting Director of Development ext 1400
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart Community Development Manager ext 3525

### Relevant Background Information

Each year, Summer Schemes are organised in all 27 directly managed Community and Play Centres. Grant funding is also available to community organisations managing summer schemes and grants are awarded at amounts of either £1,000, £1,800 or £3,000 subject to the established qualifying criteria as outlined in Appendix 1.

In 2009 a total of 1,614 children attended directly-managed BCC schemes. Evaluation feedback indicated that children aged from 4 upwards enjoyed a wide range of activities in well organised and structured programmes in accessible venues across the City. The delivery of these schemes was supported by 160 volunteers. Many of the children attending the programmes also benefited from the City Wide event programmes managed by the Play Team including 'Our City 2', Party in the Park and the National Playday.

In 2009 a total of 91 applications had been received from the community sector and a total of £163,976.00 funding was awarded to 81 groups which had met the criteria.

### Key Issues

Community Services provide quality play development and diversionary opportunities for children and young people in Belfast over the summer holiday period. This is part of the Council's commitment to improve services to children and young people throughout the City.

An amount of £183,000 has been included in the revenue estimates in respect to grant aid awards to community groups organising Summer Play Schemes in the community sector.

**Resource Implications**Financial

An amount of £183,000 has been included in the revenue estimates in respect to grant aid awards to community groups organising Summer Play Schemes in the community sector.

Human Resources

Summer schemes are organised by Belfast City Council officers supported by the short term use (4 weeks) of agency staff for the duration of the scheme.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note that a range of Summer Play Schemes will operate in directly managed Community and Play Centres.
- Grant authority for awards to be allocated to qualifying Community Groups in the community sector following assessment based on established criteria. These awards are graded to a maximum of £183,000 within the allocated budget.

**Decision Tracking**

Recommended action to be completed by June 2010 to facilitate programme implementation during summer months.

Time Line: June 2010

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart.

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Criteria for assessment.