



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Play Resource Centre: Invitation
<b>Date:</b>	16 October 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager,

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Play Resource is the centre of creativity, based in Belfast with membership open to groups across Northern Ireland. They collect waste materials from industry and recycle it into a free source of arts, play and creativity for children and young people. They are a charity who provide a unique package of resources, training, and outreach programmes that support the development of children and young people through creative play. Membership is open to any group working with children, young people and community groups.
1.2	Play Resource also provide a shop with arts materials at reduced costs for members.
1.3	Community Services has a strong relationship with Play Resource through our community and play centres accessing materials, availing of training opportunities and the use of their training room for summer scheme training.
1.4	Play Resource receives funding from Belfast City Council through the Community Services capacity grant funding stream.
1.5	The board of the Play Resource has a broad representation from across the Play Sector.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Play Resource would like to invite members of the Development Committee to visit the Play Resource centre so they can see, at firsthand, the work of Play Resource.
2.2	As the largest such play resource centre in the UK and the only one in Ireland, they have become a very successful social enterprise with a turnover of £600,000 and a resource which is well used by the vast majority of children's groups in greater Belfast. (Over 1,500 schools, youth clubs, community centres, churches, etc. are members).

2.3	This year marks their 10 <sup>th</sup> year anniversary in the purpose built premises in Duncairn Gardens. They are currently fitting a new mezzanine floor which will offer an additional 3,000 square feet of flooring space and enable the launch of a new art & craft delivery service for members, ultimately contributing to the long term sustainability of the organisation. They already bring in around 52% of core costs from self generated revenue such as membership income, shop sales and venue hire.
2.4	Next year will be their 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary and although they intend to organise some celebratory events around the anniversary, given their historic and proactive relationship with BCC, they wish to invite committee to visit the centre to see recent developments and to outline their development plan for the service.
2.5	This will also allow Play Resource to note the history of the organisation and record their thanks to BCC for their proactive involvement in both establishing the project and for its continuing support over the past 30years.
2.6	The initial funding for the project came from BCC Areas of Need Scheme.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no resource implications.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Members are asked to consider the invitation to visit the Play Resource centre.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Further to Committees consideration of the report:	
Time line: December 2012	Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
BCC Belfast City Council	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents attached</b>
There are no documents attached to this report.	