

Action Plan

Revised March 2007

This is a partnership action plan that has been developed with key stakeholders to take into account current provision and the aspirations of the local community. The strategy will be monitored and delivered by the Cheltenham's Play and Free Time Forum. The forum will be facilitated by Cheltenham Borough Council's Community Services Division

Aim: To promote children and young people's health, wellbeing and development through play and free time activities.			
Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, Milestones or Targets	Progress so far and ways forward
Encourage families to play together to support wellbeing.	Play Ranger Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership to extend the service in regeneration areas. • Provide a Play Ranger Service in summer holidays across the Borough • Work to mainstream the early years Play Ranger service 	Funding secured to enable Play Ranger Service and Early Years Play Ranger Service to continue to operate after March 2006.	Funding for Early Years secured until March 2008 Funding for Play Rangers Plus in all three regeneration areas will hopefully be secured from autumn 2007-2010 from the BIG Lottery Holiday Activities sub group of the play and free time operational forum is working to try and initiate partnership play ranger projects in parts of the borough not covered. They have successfully secured funding for SACS and Hesters Way for the Easter Holidays.
	Support family activity 'taster' sessions at various community and commercial venues to give families ideas and break down barriers to access.	No of sessions held, per year, to encourage families to access leisure/entertainment venues. Initiatives held at all Cheltenham Borough Council run facilities by December 2008	Early years play rangers have begun to do this with sessions at the children's library and Art gallery and museum. 5 sessions held this year, to encourage families to access leisure/entertainment venues.

<p>Work in partnership to encourage children and young people to take part in activities that promote all aspects of a healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>Work in partnership to encourage children and young people from all areas of Cheltenham to access leisure@cheltenham</p> <p>Encourage children and young people to take part in sports through the Gloucestershire youth games</p> <p>Work with health professionals to provide activities in existing playschemes and children and young people's projects to raise mental and physical health awareness</p>	<p>Consult with children and young people regarding access to leisure@cheltenham Winter 2006</p> <p>Annual participation by Cheltenham Borough Council in Gloucestershire Youth Games</p> <p>Equivalent of one day of health promotion and well being related activities to be delivered on holiday activity programme Summer 2006</p>	<p>Currently working with partners to decide the best way to consult on this aspect of the play strategy</p> <p>Gloucestershire Youth Games no longer runs. A Cheltenham Youth Games organised with schools is currently being investigated.</p> <p>Healthy snacks were provided on Schools Out and Hesters Way Play Rangers during summer 2006 to promote healthy eating. If funding is secured for the play ranger plus project one of the objectives of the project will be to promote healthy lifestyles through play.</p>
<p>Promote activities that encourage informal learning through play and free time activities.</p>	<p>Develop links with primary and secondary schools to provide alternative curriculum activities to include disaffected children and young people and children and young people with disabilities</p> <p>Introduce young people to new opportunities and hobbies for example photography or a musical instrument</p>	<p>No of initiatives per year Deliver one initiative in each of the regeneration areas and each special school to deliver an aspect of the curriculum through sport, the arts or environmental play by Autumn 2008</p> <p>Equivalent of one day of activities that can introduce children and young people to hobbies they can continue in their free time to be delivered</p>	<p>The Community Play Development, Sport Development Unit and Community Rangers have begun to link into Extended Services Clusters to see how they can work with schools to enhance the extra curricular activities offered.</p> <p>This initiative has not started yet due to a lack of capacity within partner agencies the new target will be for summer 2007.</p>

		on our holiday activity programme starting Summer 2006	
Work in partnership to encourage children and young people to take part in creative activities.	<p>Work in partnership to provide children and young people with new arts opportunities in their local area</p> <p>Analyse children and young people's access to arts events and performances</p>	<p>No of arts activities delivered through Play activities in the community.</p> <p>Arts activity to be delivered when appropriate at each community fun day organised by play and free time forum members</p> <p>Consult with children and young people about access to arts events and performances</p>	<p>A large number of arts activities are being organised for children and young people in their local area. The SACS spray paint project organised by the CBC Arts Development Officer is one of the most successful. The Early Years Play Ranger service also organise</p> <p>Arts activities were available at all the fundays organised by Forum members in 2006</p> <p>MAD's big mouth consulted with young people across the town and found they wanted to be more involved with the Cheltenham festivals programme.</p>

Aim: To work in partnership with voluntary groups, statutory agencies and the local community to share resources, information and expertise.

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, Milestones or Targets	Revised Performance Indicators, milestones or targets, comments or ways forward
<p>Co-ordinate and contribute to an audit of children and young people's activities across the borough</p>	<p>Collate audit information of play and free time activities from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood projects • Regeneration areas • Sports Development Unit <p>Then work with the University of Gloucestershire to try and fill in gaps in the audit.</p> <p>Feedback to County Play Policy Implementation group from the audit</p>	<p>Audit of play and free time activities to be presented to partners at the Play and Free Time Forum Autumn 2006</p> <p>Autumn 2006 take results of the audit to county implementation group to add to county audit</p>	<p>As the audit of services becomes out of date very quickly it has been decided to review the audit annually and present the findings at the autumn Play Conference.</p> <p>The County Council will be producing an audit as part of the Change for Children programme so once this is operational the Play and free Time Forum will use this as the basis for the audit.</p> <p>The county group no longer meets. The Community Play Development Unit is currently working with other partners to try and restart the county group.</p>
<p>Facilitate a play forum linked to the delivery of a local play and free time strategy.</p>	<p>Write a play and free time strategy that brings together local and national agendas.</p> <p>Establish a strategic play and free time forum for Cheltenham to discuss related issues and monitor the play policy</p>	<p>Play and Free time strategy endorsed by Cheltenham Borough Council and partner agencies by January 2006</p> <p>First Meeting of a bi annual forum to take place February 2006</p>	<p>Play and Free Time strategy was adopted by Cheltenham Borough Council in December 2005 and endorsed by the CSP in January 2006.</p> <p>The partnership action plan was reviewed at the February 2007 Play and Free Time Forum</p> <p>It has been decided by partners to meet Bi annually February and May due to pressures of delivery and then have a Play Conference in the autumn</p>

	Establish a sub group of the play and free time forum to support delivery of play and free time activities	First meeting to take place May 2006	Partners now want a quarterly meeting of the operational forum.
Support already established partnerships and forums that relate to children and young people's issues.	Support the children and young people's groups and partnership forums in regeneration areas Attend the Gloucestershire Play Policy implementation Group	Continued attendance at Hesters Way Children and Young People's Group, Oakley Children and Young People's Group, St Pauls Social Regeneration Group and all sub groups Continued attendance at Gloucestershire Play Policy implementation group	Oakley and Hesters Way Children and young people's groups are attended. No meeting is being organised in St Pauls at the moment The Community Play Development Unit is currently working with other partners to try and restart the county group.

<p>Offer support to people and agencies who work with children and young people.</p>	<p>Through development of a training programme offer low cost training to parents and voluntary agencies</p> <p>Encourage volunteer placements to support capacity building especially among parents and the communities local to projects</p> <p>Offer support and guidance to CBC and CBH staff who have regular contact with children and young people</p>	<p>Fully endorsed Playwork training programme to be available for external delivery Spring 2007</p> <p>Publicise supported volunteering opportunities on CBC holiday activities Summer 2007</p> <p>Offer endorsed Playwork training to CBC and CBH staff from Summer 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of training sessions delivered to :Internally (incl CBH) Externally 	<p>Due to maternity arrangements in Community Play the training will not be submitted for endorsement Autumn 2007 so external delivery couldn't begin before 2008/9</p> <p>Holiday activities sub group will look to establish volunteering opportunities on the summer 2007 programme</p> <p>Due to maternity arrangements in Community Play the training will not be submitted for endorsement Autumn 2007 so external delivery couldn't begin before 2007/8</p>
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Aim: To involve children and young people in decisions that affect their lives and their local community

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, milestones or targets	Revised Performance Indicators, milestones or targets, comments or ways forward
<p>Encourage children and young people to take an active role in their community.</p>	<p>Develop citizenship training programme building on the already existing democracy education activities</p> <p>Target key facilities in local communities and support children and young people to take an active role in them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community centre in SACS area • St Pauls Community House <p>Work together to provide children and young people with information about their local community that is relevant to them</p>	<p>2005-2008 an initiative based around each of the following topics to take place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice system • Local Government • The Media • Ethnic Diversity • Conflict Resolution • Global Society <p>One project lead by children and young people to take place in each venue by Winter 2008</p> <p>Quarterly newsletter (paper and electronic versions) about local activities and issues for children and young people available by January 2008</p>	<p>MAD to investigate this at a future meeting to help partners plan a programme that would meet young people's needs</p>

<p>Develop effective ways of consulting children and young people on decisions that affect them.</p>	<p>Support the extension of Youth Forums</p> <p>Work in partnership to develop effective forums for children under 11's views to be heard</p>	<p>Develop with representative youth groups effective methods of involving children and young people in development of the play and free time strategy and activities. Autumn 2006</p> <p>Consult with children under 11 to involve them in the development of the play and free time strategy and activities. Spring 2007</p>	<p>A MAD rep is invited to sit on the play and free time forum</p> <p>MAD Young people's council are piloted a consultation at Feb half term</p>
<p>Encourage understanding and co-operation between children, young people and adults.</p>	<p>From consultation with children and young people identify key areas of conflict with adults and support children and young people to work through the issues.</p> <p>Facilitate community fun days that adults, children and young people take an active part in to help increase co-operation</p>	<p>A young persons representative to feedback to each meeting of the Play Forum any play and free time issues that are affecting children and young people</p> <p>No of community events held with play and free time activity opportunities delivered</p>	<p>A representative from the Mad Young people's Council sits on the Play and free Time Forum</p> <p>Oakley Funday organised by Cheltenham Borough Homes is a good example of a whole community coming together in partnership with agencies to run a Community Funday. A variety of play and free time opportunities were available on the day for children, young people and adults to join I with together. Other community events that included play and free time opportunities organised were National PlayDay, Winston Churchill Gardens Funday and Paws in the Park.</p>
<p>Involve children and young people in local and national events that are relevant to them.</p>	<p>Work in partnership to include children and young people in Cheltenham's many high profile festivals.</p>	<p>Facilitate activities linked to each festival on CBC holiday activity programme and negotiate for these to be included in the festival programme. Commence 2006</p> <p>One young person led</p>	<p>Cheltenham festivals, Cheltenham Borough Homes and Cheltenham Borough Council are currently exploring new ways that they can work in partnership to include more children and young people in the Cheltenham festival programme.</p>

	<p>Link into national sports events when appropriate for children and young people.</p>	<p>activity to be included in each of the town's relevant festivals during 2008</p> <p>Spring/Summer 2008 facilitate an activity programme in each regeneration area to coincide with the Beijing Olympics 2008</p>	<p>Funding was not available to start this initiative in 2006 however part of Cheltenham Play Portfolio bid to the BIG Lottery was for a 'festival fun' project subject to this bid being successful the project will begin in Autumn 2007</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council Sports Development are investigating ways to engage children and young people in the run up to the Olympics in London 2012</p>
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Aim: To encourage good practice in tackling safety issues that affect children and young people.

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, milestones or targets	Revised Performance Indicators, milestones or targets, comments or ways forward
Encourage good practice in child protection issues.	<p>Support the development and implementation of a corporate child protection Policy</p> <p>Develop play development unit training programme to make child protection training available to CBC, CBH staff and community groups</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy steering group</p> <p>Community services CBC Training Development manager Playwork partnerships</p>	<p>Policy endorsed by Cheltenham Borough Council Staff and Support Services Committee January 2007 implementation is now being rolled out.</p> <p>Training will be made available to CBC staff as part of the above policy. Community Play child protection training to be submitted for endorsement Autumn 2007</p>
Empower children and young people to be responsible for their own health and safety.	<p>Support the Oakley and Hesters way anti bullying group</p> <p>Work in partnership to provide an enjoyable activity programme around the following safety themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water safety • Bullying • Fire safety • Road safety • First aid/accident 	<p>A member of Cheltenham Borough Council to attend the training the group will provide and to disseminate this training to other departments and groups</p> <p>2005-2008 an activity programme around each of the identified themes to take place</p>	<p>Anti bullying training has been made available to partners by Mags Goodhall Cheltenham Youth Service Team Leader and next steps are being talked about by agencies who attended the training.</p> <p>Due to capacity within individual agencies this initiative has not begun yet. The Holiday Activity sub group will work in partnership on this for summer 2007. By pooling resources no individual agency will have to find large amounts of staff time or funding.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking risks • Personal Safety 		
Promote awareness of good practice in health and safety in relation to children and young people.	<p>Work with partners to make the design of estates safer for children and young people.</p> <p>Develop the play development unit training programme to offer health and safety training for people who work with children and young people.</p> <p>Develop departmental good practice into corporate health and safety guidelines for children and young people's activities that conform to relevant legislation</p>	<p>Consult with children and young people about their views on the safety of their local area. Summer 2006</p> <p>Offer endorsed Playwork training to CBH and CBC staff summer 2006 extend this training to community and commercial groups Summer 2007</p> <p>Corporate Health and safety guidelines for working with children and young people to be developed and implemented by March 2006</p>	<p>MAD Young people's council have worked with Community play to facilitate consultation with children attending February half term activities. Following the success of this pilot further consultation will take place during Easter and summer holidays and results presented to the Play and Free Time Conference in October 2007.</p> <p>Due to maternity arrangements in Community Play the training will not be submitted for endorsement Autumn 2007 so external delivery couldn't begin before 2008/9</p> <p>Development to start summer 2007 due to the post of Cheltenham Borough Council Health and Safety Advisor being vacant for a significant period of time.</p>
Work in partnership to help ensure children and young people's safety in their local community.	<p>Work in partnership with the police to involve them in children and young people's activities to foster good relations between police and young people</p> <p>Educate children and young people about looking after their local community and environment i.e. litter picks</p>	<p>Equivalent of one day of activities in partnership with the Police delivered on our holiday activity programme Summer 2007</p> <p>Continuation of the existing initiatives run by these agencies for the duration of the strategy</p>	<p>Holiday activities group to look to run activities in partnership with the police this summer.</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Homes Junior Warden scheme continues to be very successful, with the wardens attending a weekly after school club.</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council Community Rangers run a number of fundays and initiatives in school during the year to</p>

			teach children to look after the environment through fun activities.
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Aim: To work in partnership to provide play and free time activities that meet the needs of local children and young people.

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, milestones or targets	Revised Performance Indicators, milestones or targets, comments or ways forward
Encourage shared activities across generations.	<p>Develop the concept of community gardens in regeneration areas</p> <p>Involve people from the local community in organised play and free time activities.</p>	<p>A working group to be formed to agree a plan of action to enable the establishment of community gardens in regeneration areas Spring 2006</p> <p>Residents associations to be invited to take part in community fun days 2005-2008</p>	<p>Several attempts have been made to establish community Gardens. The topic is regularly discussed at the operational play and free time forum. Recently Cheltenham Borough Council and Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project unsuccessfully applied for funding to establish a community garden in Whaddon. Ways that children and young people can be involved in the outdoor community areas at the New SACS Resource Centre are being looked at. Cheltenham Borough Homes and Cheltenham Borough Council Community Rangers often work with children and young people in St Pauls to plant hanging baskets or undertake other gardening projects.</p> <p>Residents associations have been invited to participate in fundays run since the start of the strategy. This has either been through consultation as to what they would like at an event or a local resident using their skills to take charge of a particular part of the day.</p>
Encourage the use of open spaces.	Consult children and young people to understand their views on Cheltenham's open spaces	Consult with children and young people on their views about the open spaces around the area in which they live and present	Open Spaces Group has now been formed by Bernice Thomson this group discusses all issues around Open spaces including play and free time issues. MAD Young people's council have worked

	<p>Extend the Play Ranger service to all the regeneration areas.</p> <p>Work with befriending service to encourage people to independently access the spaces.</p> <p>Community fun days to reclaim the parks for the local community</p>	<p>this to the play and free time forum. Summer 2006 Develop an action plan through the forum to address the issues raised Autumn 2006</p> <p>Funding secured to enable Play Ranger and Early Years Play Ranger Service to continue to operate after March 2006</p> <p>Play Rangers to have worked with the befriending service to encourage use of open spaces by families. April 2006</p> <p>Annually support the organisation of one community event in each of the regeneration areas</p>	<p>with Community play to facilitate consultation with children attending February half term activities. Following the success of this pilot further consultation will take place during Easter and summer holidays and results presented to the Play and Free Time Conference in October 2007.</p> <p>Funding for Early Years secured until March 2008 Funding for Play Rangers Plus in all three regeneration areas will hopefully be secured from autumn 2007-2010 from the BIG Lottery Holiday Activities sub group of the play and free time operational forum is working to try and initiate partnership play ranger projects in parts of the borough not covered. They have successfully secured funding for SACS and Hesters Way for the Easter Holidays.</p> <p>This will be one of the key objectives of the Early Years Play Ranger Service in 2007/8. If lottery funding is secured for play rangers plus they will also work with the befriending service</p> <p>This has happened and will continue to happen during 2007. Partners agencies are particularly keen to include play and free time activities at the opening of the Community centres in SACS and Oakley.</p>
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<p>Try to break down barriers to allow children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access play and free time activities.</p>	<p>Membership scheme that enables children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access activities at subsidised rates</p> <p>Programme of activities to help children and young people learn to access opportunities themselves</p>	<p>Easter 2006 pilot membership scheme to be up and running</p> <p>By 2008 to have worked with all of the Cheltenham Borough Council run leisure/entertainment venues on at least one initiative to encourage children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the facilities.</p>	<p>This has been suspended until the direction that the recommendation from Youth Matters for a Youth credits scheme will take in Gloucestershire has been confirmed.</p> <p>This topic will be looked at through the Play and Free Time Forum.</p>
<p>In partnership continue to develop holiday activity programmes</p>	<p>Develop annual programme of play provision across borough, with particular focus on regeneration areas</p> <p>Develop holiday activities that fill the gaps in provision identified in the partnership audit</p> <p>Encourage older children to access holiday activities</p>	<p>Annual programme of play published</p> <p>No of new opportunities for play and free time activities developed to meet identified need</p> <p>Joint activities between the Play Ranger service and Detached Youth Workers to be delivered Summer 2006</p>	<p>Easter 2007 has seen 4 council departments (Community Play, Community Rangers, Sports Development and Arts Development) work together to produce one publicity booklet for all their holiday activities. Following this successful pilot other agencies will be invited to take part in a joint brochure for the summer holidays.</p> <p>Holiday activities have mapped provision for Easter and several new parks will be used to host play activities as a result of need being identified in those areas.</p> <p>Due to a large number of unfilled vacancies within the Cheltenham Youth Service in 2006 the play ranger service could not work in regular partnership with the Youth Service as had happened in 2005. The Youth Service is currently recruiting and so hopefully will be able to work in partnership in summer 2007. If</p>

			funding is secured for the play ranger plus project, one of its objectives will be to provide play opportunities for older children.
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To raise awareness of the importance of play and free time activities for children and young people.			
Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators, milestones or targets	Revised Performance Indicators, milestones or targets, comments or ways forward
Publicise information about play and free time activities to parents, agencies and the local community.	<p>Contribute to combined information about school holiday activities in regeneration areas</p> <p>Develop a play and free time newsletter giving activity information and general information relevant to children and young people</p>	<p>Local holiday activity information booklet distributed in each regeneration area before the start of Easter and Summer holidays.</p> <p>Quarterly newsletter available children and young people from January 2008</p>	Holiday activities sub group to work on this
Participate in local and national initiatives to promote play and free time activities.	<p>Continue to celebrate National Playday.</p> <p>Continue to participate in Gloucestershire Youth Games</p> <p>Continue to support environmental initiatives specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National tree week • Seed Gathering Sunday 	<p>Annual organisation of an open community event on National Playday (first Wednesday in August)</p> <p>Annual participation by CBC in Gloucestershire Youth Games</p> <p>Annual organisation of an initiative/activity to mark each of the listed events</p>	<p>National PlayDay is still being organised annually. It is hoped if the Cheltenham Play Portfolio lottery bid is successful that National PlayDay will be developed into a Children's Festival that is a.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Youth Games no longer runs</p> <p>Objective being met more initiatives may need to be added</p>
Support development of a qualified professional workforce.	Expand the Community Play Development unit's current training programme	<p>Endorsement and roll out externally of programme. 2007</p> <p>Two new modules developed to meet</p>	Due to maternity arrangements in Community Play the training will not be submitted for endorsement Autumn 2007 so external delivery couldn't begin before

	<p>Providers of play and free time activities to offer work experience to young people</p> <p>Provide opportunities for people to volunteer on children and young people's activities</p>	<p>current skills requirements. Summer 2008 Annually accept work placement students from local schools and colleges prioritising those schools in regeneration areas</p> <p>Publicise supported volunteering opportunities on CBC holiday activities Summer 2007</p>	<p>2008/9</p> <p>Community Play offers placements to work experience students every year.</p> <p>The Community Play development Unit annually accepts students from Anney to work on their summer schemes</p>
<p>Raise awareness of the benefits of play and free time to parents, agencies and the local community.</p>	<p>Involve parents in the planning and delivery of play and free time activities.</p> <p>On establishment of the Play and Free time Strategy Forum regular newsletters (paper and electronic versions) and up dates about the strategy to be sent out to generate positive publicity</p>	<p>Publicise supported volunteering opportunities on CBC holiday activities Summer 2007 to local parents</p> <p>Bi annual newsletter to be published to co-ordinate with the meeting of the Play and Free time Strategy Forum</p>	<p>On track</p> <p>First newsletter will be published electronically summer 2007</p>

