



Play and your community report

Gloucester - 22.03.2011

The right to play is a child's first claim on the community. Play is natural training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens.' David Lloyd George

Summary report

Engaging communities in play programme Play in your community – Gloucester – 22 March 2011

The audience

23 local people took part including residents and representatives from a range of voluntary and public sector organisations.

The purpose

A whole range of play achievements and improvements have been taking place in Gloucester in the last few years and the workshop was about celebrating these successes and considering how we can shape the future of play in Gloucester. What are the long term aims?

1. **Community groups** taking on responsibility for ‘animating’ local play areas through play ranger, play days, friends of parks or parks watch schemes
2. Increased levels of **volunteering**, both formal and informal, to support **staffed and unstaffed play provision**
3. **Sustain ongoing investment** in play at the local level



How can we achieve these?

The workshop generated a mix of actions to make progress with these aims and the following tables shows ideas for both the short term (quick wins – QW) and long term (long term actions - LTA).

Quick Wins

QW – Campaign for and deliver better and appropriate play areas for the whole community, based on local needs.

QW – Talk to others about what they do - Promote our play provision – shout out more and louder about what we do. Arrange a Play day (3rd August)

QW – Apply for funding for play rangers and the delivery of play services and inclusive play opportunities.



Long term actions

LTA – Ensure that play remains supported by Gloucester City Council – encourage Neighbourhood Partnerships to promote and support play opportunities, develop volunteering in play.

LTA - Make Gloucester a great place to play

LTA – Keep the momentum going – support each other – work in partnership.

Proposals for the future:- recommendations from Play England

- **A follow up event or activity** like this to be held out of school time before the school holidays where the different service delivers' can showcase the work that they do. The activity could be based around a Playday style session where the local community can also find out what's in their area, and how they can get involved. Where the different agencies can also show what they have to offer, where more discussions can take place to build upon what has been learnt from today.

This could lead to the development of a website or an existing one to include places to play see Somerset play forum website -

<http://www.somersetplay.org.uk/page/Outdoor%20Play%20Guide/68/index.html>

- That Gloucester City Council and the Gloucester Partnership look at **pooling funding** to enable the commissioning of play across the city – ensuring a wide range of activity in those communities that want it.
- To provide **support and guidance** the group expressed a need for actual support as well as funding. That may include business support, marketing and publicity, training as well as funding advice.
- To provide an opportunity for this (or an extension) of this **group to meet on a termly basis** to encourage supportive networking, partnership and joined up actions.
- **Invite those who were named** as not being here, but needing to be involved.
- To **develop further the Play strategy action plan** and discuss where it can be moved forward.
- To **link together all things play**, and encourage them to work together rather than in isolation.
- **Consider 106 contributions as revenue funding as well as capital.**
- To **follow up on the quick wins and long term actions.**



Summary

The workshop generated some great ideas; started building better contacts for communities and giving inspiration for the future shape of Gloucester play. **One ‘quick win’ that we can already report is that the [City Council’s community grants scheme for 2011](#) will be providing financial support for play and youth activities, including those delivered by Play Gloucestershire & The Venture : White City! Our first collective action could therefore be a follow up event linked in with activities being delivered by these organisations?**

Let’s make Gloucester a great place to play! The workshop in pictures and full details of the day can be found on the [Gloucester Partnership website](#). If you want to get involved or find out more then please contact us on community.development@gloucester.gov.uk or contact one of the attendees listed below.

Attendance list and contact details

Name	Job title	Organisation	Email
Cllr Martyn White	City council cabinet member	Gloucester City council	martynw@gloucestercity.gov.uk
Sandra Norman		Longlevens Neighbourhood partnership	
Diana Docksey			
Dawn Adams	Project manager	The Venture : White City	theventurewhitecity@yahoo.com
Ben Ward	Director	World Jungle	ben@worldjungle.org.uk
Lucy Rodgers	Chair	Kingsholm Kids at Play	
Bob Allen	Chair	Matson & Robinswood Community Partnership	
Malcolm Dunn	Community Development officer	Gloucester City Council	Malcolm.dunn@gloucester.gov.uk
Ben Morris	Team leader Play Gloucestershire	Play Gloucestershire	ben@playgloucestershire.org.uk
Lorna Robinson	LSP officer	Gloucester City Council	Lorna.robinson@gloucester.gov.uk
Terry Haines	Trustee	Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association	glospfa@blueyonder.co.uk
Steve O'Connor		Three Bridges Neighbourhood Partnership	
Penny Mail	Senior playworker	GL communities	Penny.mail@glcommunities.org.uk
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Pip Levett	Director	Play Gloucestershire	pip@playgloucestershire.org.uk
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