



Play and your community
Workshop in full!
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

Play and your Community

The workshop

Tues 22nd March 2011, 10am – 1pm

Parry Hall, Parry Road GL1 4RZ

9.45-10.00	Registration & refreshments
10.00-10.15	Welcome & introduction (Cllr Martyn White)
10.15-10.45	‘Celebrating play in Gloucester’ (Gloucester Partnership)
10.45-11.00	Play memories (Play England)
11.00-11.20	Refreshments break
11.20-11.45	Engaging communities in play* (Play England)
11.45-12.00	what do we know about play? (Play England / All)
12.00-12.45	The future of play in Gloucester (Play England / All)
12.45-13.00	Summary (Play England / All / Gloucester Partnership)
13.00-	‘Get out & cook’ campfire lunch



Welcome/Introduction

Pip Levett Director of Play Gloucestershire “warmed” the group up with a treasure hunt of play places, whereby the group were shown a selection of photographs of places to play in Gloucester and asked if they knew where it was and whether they had any memories of playing there.

This was followed by **Councillor Martyn White** opening the session with a summary of the importance of play in Gloucester and the city’s approach to play.

“Today’s workshop is about celebrating the advances made in Gloucester play over last few years and how we can build on this across Gloucester.

Lots of things have been happening –

- More than 15 new sites have been developed from different funding streams, eg Meadowleaze and Milton Avenue play spaces; Lobley’s Drive skate park and Matson’s MUGA

In the last 12 months alone 7 have been completed with another 2 due to be finished shortly. This has been an investment of £500K.

- Hundreds of Gloucester children have enjoyed many thousand play sessions run in the community by the likes of Play Gloucestershire; GL Communities and White City Adventure Playground
- Local residents and community groups have taken the initiative to work with the City Council, voluntary sector and other groups to create better outdoor spaces, eg greenspace improvements funded by Neighbourhood Pride and Big Lottery funding
- Volunteers of all ages have got involved to support the design and delivery of both play spaces and play activities

The other key part of today is to look forward and consider how communities can shape neighbourhood play for the next few years. What would you like to see and how can this be achieved?

We hope you will enjoy the day and feel inspired and enthused by the breadth of ‘play’ and what it can contribute to Gloucester living”.



Celebrating Play in Gloucester – Gloucester Partnership

Gloucester Partnership hosted this section of the workshop, demonstrating not only the importance of play, but also what it has meant in real terms to the communities that have been part of the experience over the last 3 years.

Play Gloucestershire, GL Communities & The Venture : White City took us on a whirlwind tour of the local areas and some of the play experiences that have been offered by way of a geographical review of staffed & non staffed play provision around Gloucester.

North	South	Central	East
Elmbridge Longlevens Hempsted Kingsholm and Wotton	Grange Tuffley Podsmead Quedgeley	Matson Linden Barton Tredworth Westgate	Hucclecote Abbeymead Barnwood

Malcolm Dunn and Kay Lillington, Gloucester City Council then provided an insight into the parks and green-spaces that have been refurbished or developed through the Big Lottery play portfolio, play builder and council capital programmes.

The session proved so popular that it over run!! Key contributors were -

Play Gloucestershire – Pip Levett and Ben Morris provided a comprehensive review of the Play Ranger programme some of which has now come to an end. The community are looking at ways in which they could fund the sessions in the future. They also made reference to * Joost Beunderman’s evaluation “People make play” and his analogy of fixed equipment playgrounds being the ‘hardware of play’ and of play rangers and playworkers being the “software” that is need to ensure that children and young people feel safe and are supported to play out in their own communities.

The Venture – White City Adventure Playground

Dawn Adams, Project Manager gave a short history of the site and how it works today supporting hundreds and local families.

GLC Communities

Colin Pritchard gave an overview of his work as play co-ordinator at GLC Communities and the importance of the Y Pod.

<http://www.glcommunities.org.uk/about/>

Penny Mail told the group about the Matson venue and service delivery for GLC communities and her work as senior playworker.

<http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/Documents/consultationDocuments/GLCPlayprojects1.pdf>

Engaging communities in play – Play England

Play England's presentation included a background snap shot of where we are in play today and the journey we have travelled over the last 3 years to get here. The presentation also set the scene for the practical side of the workshop and the purpose of engaging communities in play.

Engaging Communities in Play programme is all about giving communities in England the inspiration and resources to enable them to develop, manage and sustain the places where their children play.

It's been put together to boost grass-roots involvement in the planning and development of play provision, while highlighting the role of the voluntary sector (sometimes called the 'third sector').

Every community is different, so we will provide bespoke training and consultancy together with information and guidance to help you sustain and develop local play spaces and services through volunteering schemes, social enterprise and a variety of resources going forward.

Who can use the service?

Every local community group can access the programme through our events and networks, advice line and online resources.

What's on offer?

We have developed trusted tools to help you transform your local play provision. Any community group and voluntary organisation can access:

- Good practice, guidance on how to develop and sustain play in your neighbourhood through a dedicated website www.playfulcommunities.org.uk
- Guidance, information and links to networks through this website
- National and regional events sharing good practice around adventure playgrounds and how communities can engage with them
- Networks of those interested in developing local play spaces or services

The group then took a break to think about their own Play Memories and discuss how this may differ to today's children and the communities in which they live.

88%

of parents say that children playing out helps families to get to know each other in the community

81%

of adults believe that children playing outside helps improve community spirit

What do we know about Play in Gloucester?

In order to gauge the current situation we asked the participants to map the now and how we could move forward to meet the objective of "Supporting Play in your community".

➤ What are they involved in?

"Play ranger team leader trying hard to sell to user groups to commission Play Gloucestershire and to return to Gloucester", "Designing new play areas for Gloucester City", "Community development and involvement" – Training / support", "Community partnership lobbying for better facilities", "Getting play into Gloucester – new longer strategy", "Play projects", "Community development", "Youth club", "LSP – supporting strategy and groups – trying to find funds!", "BIG LOTTERY", "Fundraising", "Funding", "Chair of Kingsholm Kids at Play", "Matson play project / Y POD / Coney Hill play project", "Play Rangers, supporting children families and communities", "Neighbourhood partnerships, improving local community youth clubs", "Kingsholm Kaleidoscope Saturday club", "Re-opening of play areas being brought back into play", "Lib Dem candidate campaigning for facilities within the community. Library / youth club", "Abbeymead Rovers football club", "Low level buses", "Abbeydale community Centre". "Green spaces consultation – community development /support",

➤ What's happening near where they live/work -

"Dog fouling" "Kingsholm girls grammar school fencing off their huge playing field to the community" "Mopeds everywhere", "No litter or dog fouling bins", "Litter", "wonderful new playpark in Sebert St, but reduction in play rangers. "Kings Square is full of people who have a go at you when you go past", "Glos is full of weirdo's who come up to you and talk", "NOTHING its full of old people", "Cathedral grounds are lovely, we lie about and laugh", "A redeveloped park that has been vandalised and doesn't have age appropriate equipment, Youngsters prefer the local brook and trees",

➤ Discuss places you know to play in Gloucester.

"Some are amazing" "Some good, some not so good", "Ponds, bushes, hills", "Children's play areas", "Some have had big investment", "Abandoned buildings", "Well used", "Car parks", "Territorial issues", "Railway tracks", "Their own gardens in their own homes", "Pavements – routes home from school", "Robinswood Hill is a gem!", "Lots of children, young people and families benefiting from recent changes and activities", "Walls – walk on – jump off", "Saintsbridge balancing pond", "Kings square", "Skate parks", "Some have a bad rep", "Dark and scary at night", "Community centres", "A bit rubbish, some are old and in need of repair", "Trees".

➤ Who should be here, who isn't?

"Mark Hawthorne – County Council", "Laurence Robertson – Tewks and Glos MP", "Residents from some parts of Gloucester", "Punch and Judy – give us a show!", "Richard Graham – Gloucs MP, "Residents Associations" "PCSO", "Youth clubs and youth workers", "Schools and school trusts", "Children and teenagers", "Councillors from local areas", "Paul James – Leader of City council / Chair of LSP", "Police superintendent Gary Thompson – ASB link", "David Cameron – PM", "Cool Runnings", "Martin White to stay longer", "Housing assoc – OXBODE, GHA".

Future of Play in Gloucester

Times are going to be hard, there is going to be less grant funding available, and more who will be applying and play services are going to need the support not only of the local authority through the commissioning route, but also through local engagement –

- **How do we get more children, young people, families and their communities engaged in play?**

INVOLVE & ENGAGE	STAFFED PLAY SESSIONS	PUBLICITY
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“Involve schools, advertise in local areas”, “Involve libraries”, “Community centres involved”, “Apprentices and local employment opportunities”, “Publicise what is going on – get into schools”, “Volunteers” “Play training”, “Show people how well the changes work to reduce ASB etc”, “Talk to them about where they live and play, ask them what they want and need”, “Shot about what we are good at, let people know we are here”, “Tasters”, “Involve current people”, “Link to youth groups, scouts etc”, “Painting, photography”, “Work with schools”, “Art play”, “safe play areas”, “Play events in communities”, “Listen to their needs and desires”, “make it fun!”, “Free activities” “Music”, “Play Rangers”, Schools liaison”, “Provide for all age groups”, “Provide what is wanted – where possible”, Family centres / pre schools”, “Pay for play”, “Good quality art materials – ie brushes”.

- **How can we support and maintain the development of play in our neighbourhood?**

ACTIVELY INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE	PROVIDE RESOURCES	CONSULT & RUN PLAY DAYS
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“Get more people active and involved” “Run your own Playday”, “Find out what people want to do”, Support events and fundraise”, “Funding please”, People in communities want to help and be involved”, Give financial support and guidance to community groups”, “Work together and listen to each other and our communities”, Provide resources – venues, staffing, funding?”, “Generate ideas – within local communities, within organisations”, “Network”, Engage play rangers”, “Advertise locally in communities”, “Organise fund days”, ““Software supports the community”, “Advertise where families can go to play – open spaces, play areas, Play rangers, links to each other’s websites”, “Lobby others – encourage others”, “Provide support and funding for ‘Software’ as well as funding hardware”.

➤ **What would you like play to look like in your community next year?**

INCLUSIVE PLAY ACTIVITIES	STAFFED PLAY SESSIONS	VARIETY & INVOLVEMENT
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“Community games”, “More software supporting the play parks and the community”, “Invest in maintenance of parks and open spaces”, “ A variety of hard and soft play that matches what the community needs, one size does not necessarily fit all”, “More use of open spaces for play”, “ Spaces for all age groups to enjoy and use” , “ better funding”, “Youth club needed”, “Everyone getting involved”, “ That all of us still have the jobs we love!”, More different age groups playing together”, Inclusive - family based”, “Playday across Gloucester – community led”, “ Varied activity and provision”, “ Marketing our parks and facilities better (the free ones)”, Programme if improving play areas to continue”, “ Play for all ages”, “green / natural play”, “ Family play!”, “Community games”, “ More family involvement”, Art play – creative”, “ communities doing it for themselves”, “ Delivered in partnership”, “ Year round outdoor play”, “ More software supporting the playparks and the community”, “ Varied activity and provision”.



Evaluation form feedback collation:

1. What did you find most beneficial about the workshop?

SHARING IDEAS & INFORMATION	LEARNING ABOUT PLAY IN GLOUCESTER
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“Meeting people, new information, encouragement”, “To see what is going on around Glos and what could be available to our community/ neighbourhood”, “ as always networking with others”, “Getting views and feedback from others”, “ Talking to others” “Completing the flip charts”, “ Nice for myself to network and put faces to names. Very encouraged about everything happening in Glos”, “ The people I met”, “ Meeting others”, “ Broader knowledge of Play Gloucestershire”, “ List of attendees and their contacts”, “ Partnership / Networking”, “ Opened my eyes to how important play is to the community”, “ Bringing people together”, “ The ability to put down feelings, wants needs for play provision across Gloucester”, “ networking – seeing good work being done”, “ Learning about the different areas that deal with play”

2. What difference has it made to your knowledge and understanding of children’s play?

MORE AWARE OF WHAT’S HAPPENING	PLAY CAN BE FOR ALL AGES
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“Made me think of what we offer our children. I feel that Longlevens children are missing out a great deal”, “ Big difference as my children are grown up and equipment and resources are much better” ,“Range of people are interested and for different reasons” “Wider brief” , “ Good to see others care about play”, “ Improved knowledge of organisations involved in play across the city”, “ Enhanced my knowledge”, “ My understanding of community groups and inner workings has improved” “ Breadth of work being done”, “ Have a better idea of what goes in the local areas”

3. Did the workshop meet the agreed objectives for the day?

Agreed objective	Met	Partially met	Not met
To have a greater understanding of the benefits of play for all ages	11	5	
To understand how community activists / groups can help bring local play spaces to life.	11	5	
To have a greater understanding of what support is out there for communities and how to access it.	11	5	
To understand how to support children and young people as key members of the community to have voices and to be more engaged in services that affect them.	13	3	
To understand how to get and keep your community actively involved	10	6	
To understand how to enthuse and inspire others	10	6	

4. Please let us know about any actions you intend to take as a result of attending this workshop

PROMOTE PLAY IN COMMUNITIES	RUN OR SUPPORT COMMUNITY PLAY DAYS	BUILD NETWORK OF PLAY CONTACTS
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“ Inform all attending the day of the events planned for the next year”, “Find out what our local children want” “Provide fun days and engage play rangers in our area”, “Gloucester city homes already deliver “fun days” and community pride days, throughout the year, we will continue to work with local communities to deliver these and will continue working in close partnership with other agendas and organisations”, “ Promote play areas in my party newsletter” “Get feedback from residents”, “ Keep promoting the importance of play within work”, “Follow up funding”, “ Passing on the information to community partnership”, “Set up city group to ensure the links are maintained or explain where it already exists”, “ strengthening partnerships”, “ Market Gloucester City’s open spaces for play”, “ Contact Gloucester Playing fields”, “ Promote what we do s an attempt to return to play soon”

5. Additional comments and / or suggestion for improvements

We should have done this in the school holidays and had some teenagers and lots of children activities in the afternoon” “Can you let us know how to do the blender!!” “ A follow up day would be welcomed”, “Shorten presentation”, “More work ensuring objectives being addressed during workshop”, “Enjoyable morning with lots of great slides about hardware and soft ware. Good to find out how important play rangers are to maintaining parks and developing communities”, “ Smaller organisations need help with marketing and promoting their services, as often we cannot afford spangly brochures, powerpoints and thus end up side lined as we cannot compete”.” It is a shame that invitees did not attend, and those that did attend early left early so missed some of the most important workshop bits”, “Better time keeping”.

What next?

The group were asked to think about their own services and from what they had learnt today decide what if anything they could do to improve their practise through some quick wins and also to consider what long term actions they may be able to take. Alongside the proposals that can be found at the end of this summary, there is an expectation that the quick wins and LTA's will be followed up on.

Quick Wins

"Find out what children want". "Find out about **funding** for play rangers to come to our area". "**Speak** to neighbouring local councillors about their play areas". "Highlight play areas in the newsletter". "Apply for money available from all sources". "**Promote** our play provision – **shout out** more and louder about what we do". "Keep applying for **funding**". "Look after our current supporters – keeping the links strong". "Organise "picnic in the park" to keep Sebert St solid?" "Apply for **funding** – trees / benches from GPFA" "Liaise with Play Gloucester "**to keep in touch**" and promote partnership with our community group".

"**Campaign** the partnerships".

"**Listen**"," Inform others", "Play partnership". "Distribute report". "Discuss with Glos partnership", "Ensure that play remains supported by city council". "Selling provision to community groups/schools etc". "Attend park opening events". "More **promotion** of what we do and how to build interest in Play Gloucestershire". "Support play ranger funding requests & delivery of play strategy". "Publicise play ranger **funding** options". "Support vol sector to help deliver for themselves / removing red tape etc". "Keep applying for **funding** – so we don't close"

"SHOUT LOUDLY"

"**Join up** with other agencies – like the Venture". "**Promote** more use of open spaces for play". "Visit local schools & **encourage** school use of open spaces". "**Encourage** local schools to use newly refurbished clock tower tennis courts". " See if we can **improve** council website to promote our open spaces and play areas". "**Support** a new group in setting up". "Feed into play information for Glos". " Encourage volunteers to support play". "Try to encourage a more relaxed approach to maintenance from the council's maintenance team. Weeds / **mud** are good!!!!". "Keep talking to the community groups about their aspirations as I design new play spaces across Glos".

"Apply for funding",

" **Help** groups and residents **with funding** sources and by providing technical support and guidance when required", "I would like to see = More provision across all local areas". "**Promote** play and question current provision at all local meetings eg resident groups / partnerships". " Currently working with all Glos resident groups – will suggest they consider deliver / **fund playdays**". "**Publicise** Play Gloucestershire's evaluation", "**Promote** National Playday.

Long Term actions

“Arrange a fun day”. “Use if possible **Play Rangers**”. “Funding to secure as a regular event”. “**Campaign** for better and appropriate play areas for young and older children”. “Develop “Triangle” site if considered”. “Form partnerships to apply for **funding**”. “Support and develop our friends of group”. “Increase membership of our community group”. “**Encourage** residents association which surround the “open space”, “Apply for **sustainability** grant from lottery”. “**Support** play provision”.

“keep the momentum going”

“Coordinate a city council/ community “playday”, “Support Neighbourhood partnerships to have “play in our community” sub groups”.

“Make Gloucester a great place to play”.

“Get more council / **young people** volunteering in play”. “Funding bids – to return to play”. “Work alongside community “,”work strategically with Pip and trustees to move PG forward past funding uncertainty”. “**Get play featured in the larger City vision**, to get long term commitment”, “Support section 106 action to continue to use green space”, “Start a parents group to build on what the parents have achieved”, “Run a **Playday 2011**” “ Find a suitable venue to move M.P.P so we can provide lots more playtime”. “Look into funding opportunities”. “Community centre links to use of open spaces”. “Promote more fun days across the city and use of open space for hosting fun days”. “Help in supporting fun day event on “**Playday**” through neighbourhood management co-ordinators”. “Keep positive”. “Organise fun day”. “Encourage groups to apply for **funding**”. –“encourage **neighbourhood partnerships** to promote and support play opportunities, develop volunteering in play”.

“Ensure that play remains supported by Gloucester City Council”

“Log volunteer hours to help with match funding”. “Re-write the City councils POS strategy and ensure play and fun are promoted and secured long term”. “Negotiate further funds from housing developers for investment in play and sport.”, “**Keep fighting** for funding for play and sport wherever we can find it.”, “Continue to support **local communities** and local groups.” “Encourage development of play activities – consider possibility of providing resources (funding /staffing/ volunteers/ materials)”. “Secure funding for Glos Play Rangers”. “**Develop links in communities** that we work in to sustain outdoor play”. “Retire”.

Useful publications

Gloucester Play Strategy –

This Play and Free Time Strategy is a refreshed version of the Gloucester Partnership's Play Strategy for Children and Young People (2006). It has been created by a play working group from CYPAG - a Children and Young People's Action Group that meet regularly and report directly to the Gloucester Partnership. Play and positive activities are one of Gloucester Partnership's priority actions which makes this Play and Free Time Strategy important and timely.

[http://gloucesterpartnership.org.uk/Docs/Gloucester%20Play%20Strategy%20\(Draft%20July%202010\)%20copy.pdf](http://gloucesterpartnership.org.uk/Docs/Gloucester%20Play%20Strategy%20(Draft%20July%202010)%20copy.pdf)

Play Gloucestershire Annual report –

The charity has developed a funding strategy and action plan that aims to enable Play Gloucestershire to survive and thrive. The Trustee-Directors recognise the unprecedented pressures on charities that currently exists. The reduction in public sector funding following the Comprehensive Spending Review and increasing pressure on low-income families means that demand for our work will inevitably grow. The Funding Strategy includes expanding donations with the launch of a 'Friends of Play Gloucestershire' scheme, seeking grants from a range of sources, developing income generating work, and seeking commissioning opportunities from local agencies including town and parish councils. A mixture of these income sources, as well as prudent management, will enable Play Gloucestershire to continue to support disadvantaged and rurally isolated children and families across the county.

http://www.playgloucestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/PG-Annual-Report-2009_2010-LR.pdf

Adventure Playgrounds – built by communities

Play England publication with case studies drawn from the 3rd sector adventure playground grant programme. This shows how community run adventure playgrounds can provide value for money become hubs for different types of community action and build community cohesion.

www.playengland.org.uk/builtbycommunities

Community Play – a literature review

Literature review for the 2010 *Play Day* gathers evidence examining the importance of community play, patterns of children playing outside and attitudes to children. The term community play in the review refers to children playing out in their local street and surrounding area near their homes.

www.playday.org.uk

Design for Play - A guide to creating successful play spaces

Play England guide shows how to design good play spaces and provides advice on how to engage and involve the community at all stages of the design process.

www.playengland.org.uk/designforplay

Get organised guide

Guide produced to support local communities groups and others to plan *Play Day* events provides useful information about working in partnership with your local community.

www.playday.org.uk

How to involve children and young people in designing and developing play spaces

Play England and Participation Works publication on involving children in the design process.

www.playengland.org.uk/howtoinvolvechildren

Tools for evaluating local play provision: The local play indicators

Play England has produced a comprehensive list of indicators and toolkit that local authorities and others can use to explore how suitable the play spaces in their authority are for children.

www.playengland.org.uk/localplayindicators

Making it happen – implementing the Charter for Children’s Play

Guide for those implementing the Charter for Children’s Play and promoting its messages.

www.playengland.org.uk/makingithappen

Making it Our Place: Community views on children’s play

Report presents findings from qualitative research to inform and support the 2010 Play Day campaign Our Place aimed at highlighting the role communities have in shaping children’s play opportunities.

www.playday.org.uk

Our Play, Our Choice

Good practice briefing outlines the findings of a play consultation on how disabled children can be involved in the design of play spaces.

www.kids.org.uk/briefings

People Make Play

Demos report, commissioned by Play England, shows how staffed play services, often run by the voluntary sector, are an increasingly vital element in the multi-agency approach to improving outcomes for children, families and communities and are also thought to be more cost-effective than established statutory services.

www.playengland.org.uk/peoplemakeplay

Play for a change - Play, Policy and Practice: A review of contemporary perspectives

A comprehensive review of the evidence underpinning current thinking on play that provides a detailed analysis of research and literature published since 2001 that underpins contemporary understandings of the importance of play and how this relates to social policy and practice.

www.playengland.org.uk/playforachange

Playing on: sustaining play provision in changing times

Children's Play Council publication addresses key issues of attracting longer term funding and the sustainability of play provision.

www.playengland.org.uk/playingon

Seen and Heard: Reclaiming the public realm with children and young people

Demos publication draws on six case studies with recommendations designed to empower frontline professionals and young people, this pamphlet offers practical steps to create communities that are welcoming for all.

www.demos.co.uk

Some useful websites

Cabinet Office

News on the Big Society and other Government agendas

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

CABE provides resources to help community groups improve public spaces www.cabe.org.uk/community-groups

Communities and Local Government (CLG)

Department responsible for policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and community cohesion related issues.

www.communities.gov.uk

Communities and Local Government Local priorities

The priorities they will focus on, in your area, have been captured in the local area agreement (LAA). This sets out what will be tackled on an area-by-area basis across England over the next three years.

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8399555

Department for Education

The Department for Education was formed on 12th May 2010 and is responsible for education and children's services. All statutory guidance and legislation linked to from this site continues to reflect current legal position, but may not reflect Government policy.

www.education.gov.uk

Play Day

Play Day is an annual celebration of the child's right to play. The website provides information and resources for community groups and others to organise local events to promote the right to play including working with the media and how to publicise your project.

www.playday.org.uk

Playful Communities

Playful Communities provides information, advice and resources for individuals, local community groups, third sector organisations and others who are developing play provision in their local neighbourhood. The website includes resources for local people involved in managing staffed play projects and volunteering, as well as for those supporting or maintaining play areas. The key message is to promote a "can do" approach to community involvement in play by providing individuals and community groups the tools and resources to make it happen.

www.playfulcommunities.org.uk

Play Shaper

Play Shaper helps the people who plan, design build, and manage our public spaces to understand their role in creating more child-friendly communities. The website is packed with useful information relating to play under a number of different headings including play and planning, play and schools and play and health.

www.playshaper.org.uk