

Contents	Page
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction	5
• Why should we have a play strategy?	
• What is play?	
3. The case for play.....	9
• Well-being	
• Risk	
• Inclusion	
• The impact of play deprivation	
• Conclusion on the importance of play	
4. Context	13
• Play at an international and national policy level	
• Children and young people in Harborough District	
• Play at a local policy setting	
• Play policy statement for Harborough District	
• Children's Centres and the Extended Schools Programme	
5. Review of Listening to Children, Young People and the Community	23
• Methodology	
• Results	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Consultation Sessions	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Surveys	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Plans	
• Summary	
6. Local Provision – Planning Policy Guidance 17 Audit.....	31
• Overview of Findings	
• Analysis	
<input type="checkbox"/> Methodology	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount of provision	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provision standards	
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility	
<input type="checkbox"/> Catchments	
• Management arrangement	
7. Local Standards	41
8. Big Lottery Application	45
• Market Harborough, Welland Park Road	
• Lutterworth, Coventry Road Recreational Ground	
• Fleckney Skate and BMX park	
• District Play Rangers	
9. Evaluation Plan	53
10. Action Plan	55
Appendix A – Other Provision	63



- Section One - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harborough District Council's Vision Statement:

"To support the children and young people of Harborough District, and to improve and develop the opportunity for play. To enable a choice of where, when and how to play in a safe and secure environment"

This is Harborough District's first five year Play Strategy, which covers 2007-2012. The Play Strategy has been developed in full consultation with children and young people, providers of services and members of the community. The Play Strategy will enable children and young people to access play provision within the context of being: free to choose, free to come and go and free of charge.

The Every Child Matters agenda clearly links the need for play as an important commodity in a child's life if they are to continue to grow into adulthood having had the opportunity to enjoy as well as achieve.

The Strategy looks at some of the immediate gains that can be made to improve children and young peoples play opportunities through projects that could be funded through the National Lottery. A longer term five-year vision highlights some of the more extensive improvements that children and young people would like to see happen and which would benefit all the community.

The Strategy provides a platform whereby all agencies providing services for children and young people will need to work in partnership in achieving the required outcomes. More importantly, children and young people will form part of the reviewing and evaluation process to see whether their play opportunities have improved.

This is not just a strategy, it also outlines a clear action plan as to how the vision is going to be realised and gives realistic aims and objectives which should be achieved by 2012.



Children and Young People's Champion / Chief Executive of Harborough District Council



- Section Two - INTRODUCTION

Why should we have a Play Strategy?

Harborough District Council recognises that play is crucial to children's and young people's mental, physical and social development. Yet increasing urbanisation and growing social problems have restricted opportunities for today's generation to play freely outdoors.

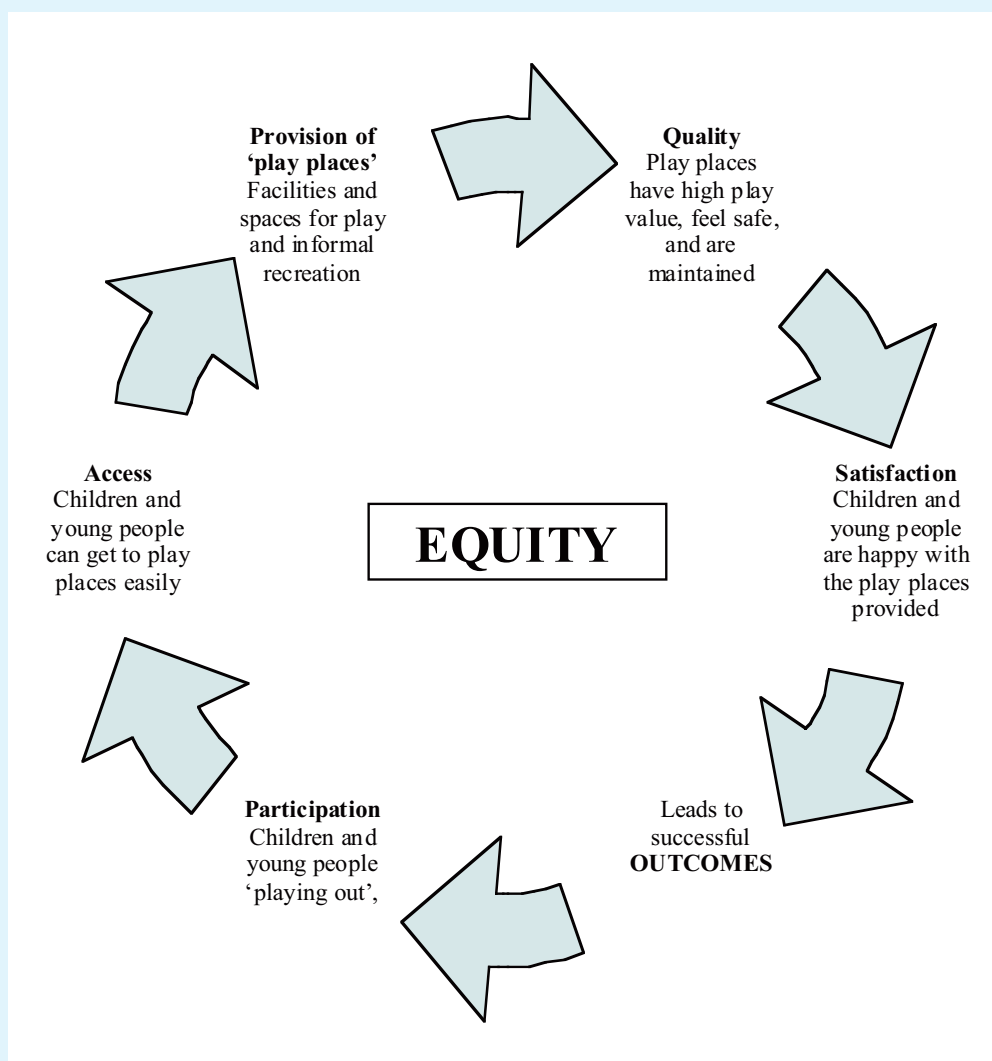
The Play Strategy primarily concentrates on unstructured play provision for children and young people around the 3 'Fs' of:

- Free to choose
- Free to come and go
- Free of charge

The Strategy acknowledges and demonstrates the contribution of the variety of existing structured indoor and outdoor play provision as shown in Appendix A, but it is principally set within the confines of **'unstructured, freely chosen, available play set within open spaces'**. Structured play provision for young people is covered within Harborough District Council Youth Strategy – Three Year Plan 2005-2008. There are relevant actions from the Youth Strategy that will contribute to the Play Strategy, and are shown within the Action Plan in Section 9. Structured play provision for the younger children will be considered within the broader Children's Centres and Extended Services development plan. The availability of both unstructured and structured play will help Harborough District move towards its goal of making the District more child and younger person friendly.

Play is an essential element in nurturing and helping children and young people become creative, expressive and to learn and understand about the world that they live in. Play can give children and young people a different way to express their feelings and is an integral part of their formative years.

It undeniably links to children's and young people's ability to progress further and lead a more rounded and balanced life, enabling them to be healthy, enjoy learning and to move forward into adulthood.



The play offer – Children's Play Council, Play Indicators Project Report, March 2006

In 2004, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published the report of a review of children's play in England. The report, **Getting Serious about Play**, made recommendations on the use of National Lottery funding for 'improving children's play opportunities' through a new dedicated children's play programme.



One of its recommendations was that local authorities needed to take the lead in planning for play across their area. It also concluded that local authorities and other agencies needed to give play a much greater profile and priority in future. The Play Strategy for Harborough District aims to fulfil the Government's requirement around play and proposes a way forward and an action plan for accessing the £200,000 grant available for Harborough District from the National Lottery.

The Harborough District five-year Play Strategy is underpinned by the following **play statement**, which demonstrates its commitment to the strategic importance of play in the development of a child:

- ❑ We will raise the profile of play
- ❑ We will ensure that all children and young people, regardless of their ability, have equal access and inclusive approach and opportunities for play
- ❑ We will ensure that decision-makers plan and resource play to support the outcomes of the five-year Play Strategy
- ❑ We will work in partnership to improve play provision
- ❑ We will commit to developing a wider child-friendly environment, which will increase children's opportunities for play whenever, and wherever they choose
- ❑ We will identify opportunities that contribute to the overall vision of a Child-Friendly District

The Strategy has been developed in partnership with those agencies who deliver play services. Most importantly, the Strategy is largely based on the views of children and young people. Section 5 is dedicated to what children and young people think about play and what they would like to see happen in the next five years.



What Is Play?

There are many definitions cited throughout the literature. The following definition has been adopted for the purpose of this strategy:

Play is *"freely chosen, personally directed, and intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community"*

- Section Three -

THE CASE FOR PLAY

Well-being

Play can mean many different things to different people as it is loosely defined and based mainly on individually driven activities.

"The main characteristic of play – child or adult – is not content, but its mode. Play is an approach to action, not a form of activity"

(Best Play, 2000)

Play and the provision of a range of opportunities to play is one of the single most important factors in creating an environment that supports our youngest citizens in fully realising their potential. It must also be stated from the outset that play is one of the fundamental rights of the child.

Apart from just "knowing that it's the right thing to do", play has many positive impacts on the child. There is strong evidence that the provision of an enriching range of play opportunities positively impacts on the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the child.

In recent years scientists have begun to confirm that play is a vital part of the human evolution and survival process. Play is common to every child on the planet and has been a part of human behaviour throughout evolution.

Play is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated by the child. Through play, children develop spontaneity, flexibility, risk-assessing skills and trust in their own actions. They learn to communicate, problem-solve, interact socially and navigate the environment. These skills are essential to their future survival and adaptation.

Play happens during what is known as a 'biologically sensitive period', and is thought to permanently alter the course of development of both brain and muscles. Children who regularly engage in high quality play between the ages of 0 and 10 have a much greater potential brain capacity than those who do not. Brain and muscle development may be one of play's evolutionary functions.

So being able to engage in good play experiences is not just about having fun during childhood. Playing is also how we develop our brains and muscles during childhood and how we learn to use that new brain and muscle material too.

Risk

Play should be fun and rewarding for children and young people, they seem to have a natural tendency to need and want to take risk when they play. Play provision of any form should therefore consider the requirement to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. This however has to be balanced against managing the danger of children and young people being unduly exposed to unacceptable risk of death or serious injury. This is particularly relevant in the balance of three of the Every Child Matters outcomes in staying safe, being healthy and enjoyment.



Inclusion

Play has a positive impact on social inclusion and can help children to interact with others, regardless of their abilities or their background. It gives them an opportunity to understand that regardless of the background a person may come from, their fundamental being as a person is exactly the same as the next, especially in terms of play. Children and young people who have disabilities may feel especially excluded from such environments, and an increased effort should be given to ensure children and young people with different abilities are able to interact within the same environment, and that stereotypical assumptions are not grounded at an early age.



The Impact of Play Deprivation

Unfortunately, in the past forty or so years, building, pollution, traffic and parental fears of predatory adults have had the effect of seriously curtailing children's play experiences. This has made them vulnerable to a catastrophic condition called **Play Deprivation**.

There is growing evidence to suggest that Play Deprivation does us enduring harm as individuals. At its most benign, Play Deprivation can make children miserable, anti-social, obese and aggressive. At its most malign, Play Deprivation can render children violent.

Why might this be?

One theory proposes that playing enables children to form a fixed or stable view of their existence, which makes it possible for them to give their lives and those of others meaning, value and purpose. Playing helps children explain and understand the world they live in.

Other negative outcomes from lack of play can include:

- Poor interpersonal communication skills characterised by aggression
- Bullying and the use of controlling techniques
- Susceptibility to alcohol and substance abuse
- Self-harming and the harming of other members of society
- Poor self-esteem and limited contribution to society in social, community, economic or cultural terms

When children grow into young people with these types of difficulties, there is a detrimental impact on society. Many problems associated with anti-social behaviour, which affect all in society, can be linked to play deprivation. As well as impairing children's life chances, we as a society are all the poorer, when our children are deprived of play.

Play Deprivation inhibits the formation of bonds with the world and leaves the affected child in a kind of 'cosmic isolation', where nothing makes any sense and they become increasingly vulnerable to fantasy and psychosis. Play Deprivation experienced as a child could therefore be a factor in mental illness, suicide and violent psychopathology, which manifests in adolescence or adulthood.

Conclusion on the importance of play

We must recognise that it is our responsibility to ensure that our children have play opportunities that in the past may have been denied to young people as communities have evolved. There is a clear responsibility for decision makers, across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to take co-ordinated action to address play deprivation through providing rich and appropriate play environments and experiences. Investing in play will contribute to a society that is:

- Healthier
- More reconciled
- Family friendly
- Innovative and creative
- Culturally dynamic



- Section Four -

CONTEXT

Play at an International and National Policy Level

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. The UK signed the convention on 19 April 1990, ratified it on 16 December 1991 and it came into force in the UK on 15 January 1992. When a country ratifies the convention it agrees to do everything it can to implement it. Article 31 stipulates that all children and young people:

'Have the right to rest, play and enjoy art and culture'

The Government endorsed their commitment to the UNCRC through the development of the Children Act 2004, **Every Child Matters** and through the creation of a national Children's Commissioner and Office.

The benefits of children's play are closely linked to the five outcomes that form the core of Every Child Matters:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

From a **Health perspective**, play is recognised as being crucial to tackling child obesity and associated problems.

"The lack of physical activity is a major underlying cause of death, disease and disability. Preliminary data from a WHO study on risk factors suggest that a sedentary lifestyle is one of the ten leading global causes of death and disability. More than two million deaths each year are attributed to physical activity"

(World Health Organisation, Move for Health, 2002)

The expert recommendation for young people supported by the Department of Health is that:

"All young people should participate in physical activity of at least moderate intensity for one hour per day. This hour can be made up from a variety of activities across the day, including organised sport, play, walking or cycling to school, physical education or planned exercise"

It also plays crucial links to other Government policies highlighted below:

The Government's 2002 report '**Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener**' – the need to improve the quality of public space with children and young people being a key stakeholder as users of public space. This includes local Open Space and Parks Plans.

The Government's, **Choice for Parents, The Best Start for Children** sets out a ten-year strategy to create a sustainable framework for high quality integrated early years and childcare activities for all children and families. In addition, Extended Services is where free play provision is a key part of the service.

The policy known as **Youth Matters** recognises the importance of providing good offers for children's free time including unstructured as well as structured provision.

Children's Fund gave a greater emphasis to preventative services and whilst now nearing the end of its original funding commitment from the Government, there are many examples of best practice that can be adopted from projects. This is most important for the work that was done with some of the more at risk and excluded groups of children and young people.

Government guidance for **local transport strategies** promotes traffic calming, home zones and measures to improve walking and cycling, all of which can improve children's and young people's access to play opportunities and contribute towards children being healthy and staying safe. Crucially is the need for affordable transport so that not only children and young people can access play opportunities but also so that the whole family can.

Government **housing and regeneration initiatives** have stressed the importance of a good built environment for children and young people to grow up in. A focus on play and public space was a key factor in making new and regenerated communities attractive to families and is a key consideration in creating positive community cohesion.

Finally, and perhaps particularly relevant to a rural authority, is giving an added focus to the needs of the **rural community**. The relative lack of population and associated inadequate transport links can leave some children and young people feeling very isolated. Other key contributory factors are heavy through, and or commuter traffic, lack of pavements, lighting creating uncertainty and the added worry for parents of their children not being safe. The Government has recognised this and encourages parishes to consult with children and young people on how play improvements can be made.

Children and young people in Harborough District



Harborough District covers an area of 59,178 hectares and shares borders with Melton, Rutland, Corby, Kettering, Daventry, Rugby, Blaby, Oadby and Wigston, Leicester and Charnwood Districts.

In 2003, the population of the District was estimated to be 79,130. The largest proportion of the population live in the larger settlements of Market Harborough (18,600 people), Broughton Astley (8,680 people) and Lutterworth (8,350 people). The population is predicted to grow to 84,500 in 2011.

There were 33,455 households in Harborough in March 2005 with an average household size of 2.4. The District has a low unemployment rate at 1.2%. In terms of deprivation, Harborough has one of the lowest lone-parent households with dependant children in the County just 1,338, an average of 4%, with 162 (2001 census) of the 1,338 making up the male lone parents. Nearly 70% of those male lone parents are in either part or full-time employment. The remaining 1063 (2001 census) are female lone parents with over 63% (2001 census) being in either part or full-time employment.

18.9% of the population are under 16 years. The population profile of children and young people within Harborough at 2003 is tabled below:

AGE RANGE	NUMBERS
0-4	4,590
5-9	4,884
10-14	5,040
15-19	4,287
TOTAL	18,801

A comparison with the other Districts within the County is below:

DISTRICT	TOTAL NUMBERS
Melton	11,600
Blaby	22,400
Charnwood	38,300
Hinckley and Bosworth	23,700
North West Leicestershire	20,900
Oadby and Wigston	14,800

Play in a Local Policy Setting

Harborough District Council is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people through their membership on Leicestershire's Children's and Young People's Services Board and by being signatories to **Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 and the Local Area Agreement.**

Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2006 to 2009 is a **single strategic overarching plan** affecting all services for children and young people aged 0-19. It also forms the priorities within Leicestershire's Children's Block of the Local Area Agreement. A Local Area Agreement is a series of joint priorities and actions which agencies agree to work together on.

The Plan provides information about the needs of children and young people in Leicestershire, how well those needs are currently being met and where outcomes need to improve in relation to all of the **five outcomes in the Every Child Matters Framework.**

The **priorities** that have been identified within the Children and Young People's Plan, which the Harborough District Play Strategy will directly contribute to, are:

BE HEALTHY

- Improve the physical health of children and young people.
- Improve the mental health and well being of children and young people.

STAY SAFE

- Maintain, through the Local Children's Safeguarding Board, our focus on safeguarding children, ensuring that all agencies work together.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

- Improve personal and social development and the enjoyment of culture and recreation.
- Improve the quality of life for looked after children and care leavers.

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

- Improve and enable opportunities for children and young people to participate in consultation exercises and active involvement.

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Ensure sufficient quality childcare places are provided across the County that are accessible to all groups.
- Provide extended services in primary and secondary schools and in children's centres.



Harborough District Council has a long-term commitment to providing high quality parks and open spaces, which are freely available and inclusive to all members of the community through previous Open Spaces and Parks Plans. This will be maintained and the Play Strategy for 2007-2012 will contribute to and influence the revised Open Spaces and Parks Plan, which is being written in 2007.

Their long-term commitment has previously been stated as being:

"To support and provide a wide range of parks and open spaces throughout Harborough District, which are enjoyed by all who use them and which improve the quality of life for residents"

The key elements to support this commitment are to:

"Improve the appearance... improve accessibility... provide opportunities for people of all ages... "

This demonstrates their commitment in designing and delivering facilities that are children and young people friendly. Key developments include **outdoor play provision** and it acknowledges the statement;

'... the need to maintain and enhance this network of play areas was emphasised by consultation during the Planning Policy Guidance 17 audit.'

The current expectation is that the number of parks and open spaces are to grow from 130 to 160 over the next five to six years. The benefits of this are seen as having a positive effect on members of the community by:

- Improving the quality of life
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Providing equality of opportunities
- Sport
- Creating social cohesion
- Promoting community safety
- Lifelong learning
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic value
- Regeneration
- And in particular, providing excellent children's and young people's facilities

Through understanding the importance of children and young people, Harborough District Council was the first district within Leicestershire to employ a Children's Services Manager who had the remit to develop a play strategy for the District.

One of the biggest challenges in developing a multi-agency strategy is securing a shared commitment to an approach that is challenging, which will bring about a transformative change but which also secures the buy-in of all the agencies and departments around the table. A range of different players are required to make a difference. A cultural shift is needed across the District by all key players including politicians and parents, health workers and planners, community groups and businesses in understanding the importance of play in children's and young people's lives.

The Children's Services Manager represents all the Borough and District councils on the **Leicestershire Workforce Development Group**, which is co-ordinated by Leicestershire County Council. This is to ensure that the workforce development needs for implementing a successful Play Strategy are adequately reflected. This will help to determine the availability of the current workforce available within the District at the present moment and will help decision makers to determine resources to meet the requirements of the successful delivery of the Play Strategy. The aim will be to identify the numbers of workers, their levels of qualifications, availability of training and to include the crucial role of the community and voluntary sector in helping to deliver play.

The Play Strategy will also contribute towards the development of local **Parish Plans** which is crucial in targeting rural areas who may suffer from a lack of suitable play provision. A protocol on how to write and what should be contained within a Parish Plan is being drafted by Harborough District Council. It is envisaged that Parish Councils will be asked to consider how they are going to address play within their local community and their local Parish Plan but referring back to this Play Strategy as guidance.



The Play Strategy will also help to raise the awareness of play and influence other key Strategies such as the **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategy**, **Future Community Plans**, the **Local Development Plan** and the **Economic Development Plan**.

Play policy statements for Harborough District

Harborough District Council has identified six strategic themes to ensure the recognition that play should be given. This is through:

- Championing Play
- Putting Children at Centre of Decision Making
- Creating a Child Friendly and Inclusive District
- Space for Play
- Creativity and Learning through Play
- Health and Well-Being through Play

A multi-agency Play Strategy Group was established in September 2006, which included representation from Harborough District Council, Leicestershire County Council, Local Strategic Partnership, Homestart, Primary Care Trust, childcare organisations, the voluntary sector and schools. An action plan was developed with key milestones and accountability arrangements for the completion of the strategy to be achieved by June 2007.

A Councillor Task Panel was created which reflected the Councillors' commitment to championing play at a political level. This Panel has met a number of times and has helped to inform and develop the Harborough District Council Play Strategy. There is a Harborough District Council Children's and Young People's Champion who has been instrumental in ensuring that children and young people remain a priority within the development of the District Council's services.

The draft Play Strategy was also subject to a six week public consultation period from the end of March to the beginning of May 2007.

This high level of commitment within Harborough District Council to develop, implement and monitor the Play Strategy has undeniably helped to forge strong communication and identify opportunities for collaborative working between the partner organisations.

Creating a culture of play, however, is bigger than agencies and strategies. Arguably, the people who have most influence on children's freedom to play are parents, families and the wider community. Changing the face of play for the children of the Harborough District Council area is therefore a challenge for all.

Children's Centres and the Extended Services Programme



Play is a key component of the third outcome of Enjoy and Achieve within the Every Child Matters framework. Harborough District's Play Strategy is in a prime position to be involved, inform and develop play provision within the context of the Extended Services initiative.

Extended services refers to a programme of service delivery for all children, young people and their families that is delivered by a range of agencies as part of the national children's centre and extended services initiatives. These services may be delivered in and around schools.



Extended services are seen as the way in which targeted support can be embedded within universal service provision and they are the focus for early and preventative intervention. They are central to the development of Children's Trust arrangements at a local level and linked to the rollout of the Common Assessment Framework and workforce development plans.

The two initiatives share a common core offer and should be developed together to ensure a continuum of provision.

The core offer for mainstream and special schools is:

- Primary schools provide access to high quality childcare
- Secondary schools provide access to a varied menu of study support and enrichment activities
- Schools provide access to parenting support
- Swift and easy access to specialist services
- Schools ensure they provide community access

The core offer will not look the same in every locality because local needs and priorities will differ. The Phase 1 Children's Centre programme was focussed on new, purpose built provision. Phase 2 takes a different approach that looks at facilities and resources that already exist and facilitate partnership working and joint planning to improve what is currently in place.

Leicestershire County Council has agreed that each locality (Local Authority area) should have a network or cluster of partnerships. These local partnerships will be supported by an Extended Services Partnership Co-ordinator.

Harborough District are working with Leicestershire County Council to ensure that the extended services programme is managed to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people by addressing the local needs. In terms of the Extended Services programme, the Harborough District Play Partnership Group will have the responsibility for ensuring that the Play Strategy is intrinsically linked. As the Extended Services programme is in the early stages of development in Harborough District, the production of the Play Strategy will help to raise the awareness of the importance of play provision through the core offer provided within schools. In particular, it will provide an opportunity for structured play in a secure and safe environment.

- Section Five -

REVIEW OF LISTENING TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

Listening to the views of children, young people and the community is at the very heart of this Play Strategy to ensure that future actions and developments will respond to the needs of our community for today, and in the future. This is by recognising the different needs of age groups and those with additional needs.

Methodology

The methodology was undertaken to ensure that the full age range was viewed and analysed, including the views of parents and carers. It was designed and undertaken for the specific purpose of formulating the backbone of the Play Strategy. The range of consultation is shown in the table below:

Age Group	Numbers involved	Group	Method
2-4	20	Home start Toddlers and with parents	Individual consultation in December 2006 through Christmas wish star activity
5-11	120	Primary Schools	Individual consultation in December 2006 through the Chill Out bus through Christmas wish star activity
10-16	20	Rural Youth Groups	Individual consultation in December 2006 through a racing game activity
11-14	12	Methodist Youth Group	Group discussion in December 2006
11-14	146	Harborough District High Schools	Play questionnaire
11-17	5	Fleckney Skateboarders	Individual consultation by Fleckney Parish Council
11-19	8	Fleckney Young People	Individual consultation
11-19	10	Kibworth Young People	Individual consultation in February 2007
13-15	2	Looked After Children	Group discussion Christmas wish star activity Play questionnaire
13-17	8	Connexions – not in Education, Employment or Training	Play questionnaire

The results of all the individual and group discussions have been amalgamated and incorporated into an overall finding in the first section of the results. A summary is contained at the end of the section covering some of the short, medium and long-term wishes of children and young people of Harborough District.



The Results

This is divided into three sections covering:

- Individual consultation sessions covering all age groups
- Results of a high school survey covering the views of mainly 11 -14 year olds
- Results of Parish Plan consultation

Results of individual consultation sessions

Children

Younger aged children prefer to play in the **traditional sense** of the word, that is, to play with friends and to have imaginary fun and simple entertainment. This is probably due to the security of having parents and family in close proximity. The most common request was to play with friends and particularly in local parks that were clean and had facilities that were specifically dedicated for the younger age group. Teenagers should be discouraged from using these facilities by having their own which are tailored to their needs.

These requests will be addressed in the action plan in section 9, and will be incorporated into the portfolio of projects for Lottery funding in September 2007.

Young People

The older children and teenagers tended to favour '**structured**' activities such as cinema, bowling and ice skating. This mirrored the views of parents. The needs of all the family could be considered when going on family outings. Some families have children ranging from a very young age through to those who are in their teens. To try and find play and leisure opportunities to suit all requirements can be challenging. Cinemas in particular were favoured and especially in a central location such as Market Harborough. Families are excluded from attending **cinemas** as many do not have adequate and sufficient transport to get to Leicester, Rugby or Kettering and feel that they are missing out on an important family occasion. Cinemas are viewed as **safe environments** for young people to spend time in rather than hanging around street corners. They are also seen as a good way to meet other young people especially during the winter months.



However within all of this is the cost consideration. The facilities need to be affordable otherwise they will exclude the very people that they were hoping to attract. Also, the scope for any direct influences to be able to provide commercial businesses such as cinemas and bowling alleys through this strategy are remote and also outside of its remit. Such provisions are described as '**structured**' activities, and therefore will be looked at through the Youth Strategy in 2008. Other partners such as the Harborough Chamber of Trade and Commerce, and Harborough Improvement Team are working together with Harborough District Council, to see how these developments might be taken forward with the commercial sector.

With regards to young people's opportunity for unstructured play, feedback from individual consultation and discussion groups was that they just wanted somewhere to 'hang out' without being moved on by the police. The young people asked were concerned that there were not many places where they could go, without the community believing that they were causing trouble or anti-social behaviour, just because they were amongst a group of friends. The young people requested that these areas were safe and well lit in order for them to feel safe.

This consultation will reflect in the action plan in section 9 regarding unstructured play and facilities, for example, skate parks and basketball hoops. More structured youth facilities will feature in more detail in the Youth Strategy planned for 2008.



Results of the Harborough District School survey

There was a balance of 63 boys to 83 girls completing the survey mainly covering the ages from 11 to 14 years old. The surveys were analysed individually, which gave a good oversight into the differences in attitudes between gender, age and where the children and young people lived.

There is a warning attached to the results of the survey as it is a small sample of children and young people amounting to 146 responses and whilst it may give a good indication of the general feel of attitudes towards, it cannot be scientific in its analysis. Future development should be to create a method where children and young people can express their views in a more representative sample. This should form part of the evaluation process acknowledging our commitment to listening and responding to the views and wishes of children and young people.

Of the children surveyed, 83% stated that they had an outdoor play area near to them but only 44% used that play area with 41% saying that it was fun to play on. There may be many different explanations for this but some of the other questions indicate that children and young people, especially of that age group, **prefer to play within the vicinity of their home or that of their friends' environment.** Overall, children's and young people's favourite play activity was **playing outside**, with 64% of the vote.

Only 25% of those surveyed said that they went to a summer play scheme with only 27% attending an after-school play scheme. Of those who did not go to an after-school play scheme, only 30% expressed an interest in attending one although 46% of respondents indicated that they would like to take part in organised activities in the park. Some of this may be related to how they view the involvement of adults within the organised activities and may prefer to be out of an adult controlled environment. Interestingly, it was children and young people in the villages that were **less likely to welcome the presence of adults** within the play area than those in the town. One specific comment was;

"Adults to stop watching kids when we're trying to have fun".

85% of the children and young people indicated that they liked to play at home and 83% at their friends' homes. Only 22% opted for a play area, 20% for a skate park and 45% for a park. Some of this may be reflected by how children and young people feel about being safe when playing. They stated that the key factors for **feeling safe** and **feeling welcome** when playing are through the presence of friends, being near people and being in a place where they know. In fact, the whole enjoyment factor in playing points towards the **presence of friends** and knowing lots of people. Even if facilities were available, then without friends they would be less likely to attend. This corresponds with the Play Strategy's main ethos of the importance of play and in gaining social skills.

In addition to being with friends and feeling in a safe and secure environment, 71% of children and young people stated that it was the feeling of **lots of space** that made the play area exciting with different things to play with such as water pools and basketball hoops.

Children and young people stated that they were happy to play with others of different ages, though there was a feeling that the younger age group felt intimidated by older teenagers. The younger age group would **prefer separate play arrangements**, feeling that the older teenagers may be the cause of vandalism and graffiti of their play equipment. This seemed to be more synonymous with a town rather than a village setting where there tended to be more of a cohesion and willingness to play together between the different age groups. Playing with children with disabilities was not an issue but mainly because those surveyed were not aware of children with disabilities and therefore didn't have the opportunity to play with them.



Results of the Parish Council consultations

The 13 Parish Plans available for analysis showed that the availability of leisure and sports facilities was of high importance for all residents.

Many of the Parish Plans included a section on what children and young people had said that they wanted. It showed that they had an interest in the following activities:

Football	Swimming	Dancing
Tennis	Rugby	Youth club
Badminton	Skateboarding	Horse riding
Table tennis	Hockey	Basketball
Rounders	Archery	Access to parks and countryside
Cricket	Running	
Netball	Martial arts	

Young people said they would like to have/most likely to use:

Tennis	5-a-side football	Children's play area centrally located
More playground facilities	Additional equipment for existing play areas	Other activities other than sports e.g. dancing, bridge, drama
Skate park	Basketball	Youth club



Summary of consultation

The main findings shown below have helped to inform the designing of new play provision including that of the proposed Big Lottery project. The findings demonstrate that:

- Children and young people want an outdoor play area near to them
- The play area should have lots of space but should be near to other people
- A wide variety of big play equipment should be provided and should include water pools, basketball hoops, zip wire, climbing wall, rugby posts, adventure playground and astro turf with adequate light for night and winter usage
- It should be inclusive for all children, including those with disabilities
- It should have a separate area for younger children and young people to play/hang out

For the wider audience in terms of 'structured play', children and young people talked about the need for:

- A cinema in Market Harborough
- Possible retail park to include cinema, bowling, ice rink, go- karting, paint balling
- Improved shopping facilities for young people to include girls' clothes shops, fast food chains, computer game store, chill-out cafe



This is however outside the remit of the Play Strategy and will be addressed through residential and business developments and the Open Spaces and Park Strategy.

These results are echoed by the Broughton Astley Youth Provision Feasibility Study (February 2007), commissioned by the Broughton Astley Health Check Action Group. The study was funded by the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership with the support of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland). The study looked at youth facilities within Broughton Astley and surrounding areas, and included a youth questionnaire completed by 113 local young people. The feasibility study is now being used to develop a youth social enterprise in the village.

These results have influenced and help support the findings of the PPG17 audit and therefore provide the direction for **where** improvements need to be made, **what** should be included within the new provision and where the funding from the Big Lottery should be targeted. There is a stipulation within contracts with the play companies that they must involve children and young people through the design process.



- Section Six -

LOCAL PROVISION – PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE 17 AUDIT

The audit of the local provision under Planning Policy Guidance 17 covers the following areas:

- Outdoor play equipment in public parks
- Outdoor play equipment on housing developments
- Open spaces for recreational use
- Outdoor play equipment at tourist attractions and commercial businesses such as pubs and restaurants
- Outdoor play equipment at schools, nurseries, youth clubs
- Indoor play equipment provided at commercial settings
- Youth provision such as seating, shelters, skate parks
- Staffed adventure playgrounds

Audit findings

Children's play areas are a popular use of open space, and both the quality and accessibility of most sites within the District is considered to be good.

Consultation indicated that there was felt to be a deficiency of provision, particularly for teenagers. The application of a local standard of 0.3 ha per 1000 population has been suggested. When applying this standard, all areas have an undersupply of provision, the largest of which is in Market Harborough and Lubenham, equivalent to 4.85 hectares in total.

It is suggested that play areas are relatively local facilities, and 75% of people expect to walk to a small play area within 5 – 10 minutes of their home.

There are therefore many areas that lie outside of this catchment although the areas covered centre around the main urban areas where the majority of population reside.

66% of sites within the district were rated as good or very good in terms of quality, and accessibility was also indicated to be high. Despite this, there are a number of sites which require investigation and / or improvement, as they are currently used less frequently than other sites.

Methodology

Harborough District Council employed a firm of consultants, PMP, to undertake an analysis of the provision and needs assessment which was completed in 2004 and plays a fundamental part of Harborough's Play Strategy.

The methodology and development of the Open Space and Recreation Provision study was undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).

The PPG 17 Companion Guide sets out a 5 step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space and recreation. This process was used in developing this study using Harborough District Council's own appropriate mechanisms that meet the requirements of the council to:

- plan,
- monitor and
- set targets for the existing and future provision of open space within the District.

The 5-step process is as follows:

- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
- Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
- Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
- Step 5 – Drafting Implementation and Action Plan.



Amount of Provision

Although 41% of respondents in the PPG17 report suggested that provision for young people was about right, the majority (59%) indicated that there was a deficiency with no responses suggesting there was a surplus of provision. This percentage of deficiency responses was the highest of any open space type. These figures were also supported by all other forms of which specifically suggested the shortage was more to do with teenage provision than provision for the younger children.

With the exception of Market Harborough and Lubenham area, over 50% of PPG17 consultation responses in each area suggest that there is a deficiency of provision for young people and children.

More specifically, those areas that had higher responses of deficiency have a provision of **less than 0.2 ha per 1,000 population** suggesting any local standard should be above this level of provision. Peatling and Bosworth had an equal number of responses suggesting provision was about right and deficient with a provision level of 0.27 ha per 1,000 population suggesting a local standard should be above this but not too much higher.

There are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for provision for children and young people between the rural and the more urban areas of the District, suggesting the same standard could be applied to the whole of the District. In fact one of the key points from the more qualitative consultation through the neighbourhood 'drop-in' sessions was that there is a demand for play areas even in small village settlements and therefore this type of open space could be expected to be realistically provided equally in both urban and rural areas.

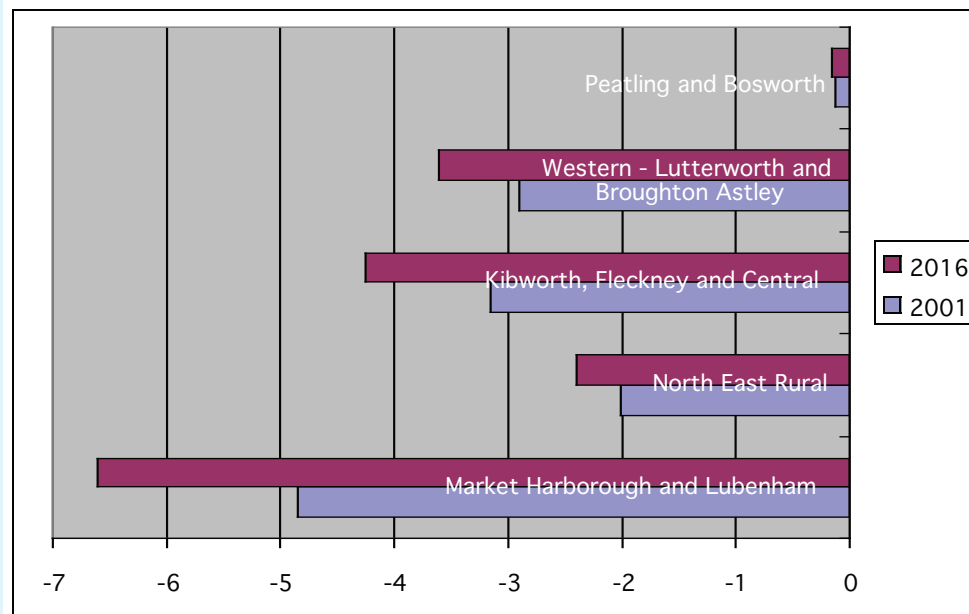
A provision standard for this type of open space should be realistic. For example, 1 ha of equipped play area would be a very large provision (bigger than a football pitch and would be unrealistic). Therefore given the above statistics a local standard of 0.3 ha would improve the provision but also probably achievable and realistic. This equates to about a 17m x 17m of equipped play area per 1,000 population.



Applying provision standards

Based on a provision standard of 0.3 hectares, there is a total deficiency of 13.5ha, rising to almost 15ha by 2011. Figure 6.1 highlights the levels of undersupply of provision for young people and children within the district.

Figure 6.1 –Deficiency of provision for children and young people in hectares by analysis area



The key issues that arise from the application of standards are:

- with the exception of Peatling and Bosworth, the deficiencies in all areas are proportionately large
- the largest deficiency of provision for children and young people is in Market Harborough, where there is a shortfall of 4.85 hectares
- shortfalls in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley will increase to 3.61 hectares by 2016, supporting the findings from the PPG17 consultation that there may be a requirement for additional sites.

Consultation has indicated that there is a shortfall of provision for young people and children; however the main shortfalls are focused in the upper end of this typology – provision for teenagers. It is recommended that detailed investigation is undertaken into the actual split and the demand for additional provision. This will ensure that the needs of teenagers are not ignored. This approach was highlighted within PPG17.

Quality

66% of sites for young people and children in the District are considered to be of either good or very good quality. Only 14% of sites are rated as poor or very poor.

Children and young people have different opinions about what makes play provision either good or poor and this is witnessed in the results of consultation with them saying:

'make it appealing to all ages so don't make it kiddy or nobody over 10 will go'

This clearly links the need to make play provision more socially inclusive and accessible to all.

Some children and young people have commented about the actual environment that the play provision is in by saying:

- 'clean the paths from chewing gum'
- 'maybe it would be more fun if you updated the park and got rid of the graffiti and rid of those horrible toilets – they are awful'

In Market Harborough and Lubenham, 64% of sites for children and young people are considered to be good or very good quality. Both Goodwood Close Play Area and Burford Green Play Area in the Market Harborough urban area are rated as very good, as is the Village Hall play area in Lubenham.

Goodwood Close and Burford Green Play Areas have both recently been opened at a cost of £27,000 and £26,000 respectively. Further new play areas are to be opened at Dunley Way, Lutterworth, possibly with ancillary sports equipment for older children and teenagers, and replacement of play equipment at Byre Crescent, Broughton Astley. Additionally there is proposed replacement of play equipment at Little Bowden Recreation Ground through Section 106 money.

North East Rural is the only area to have none of its sites for young people and children rated as poor. In addition 77% of its sites are considered to be good or very good. The Millennium Green play area in Hungarton is considered to be of particularly good quality.



The Kibworth, Fleckney and Central region is perhaps the biggest area of concern with 43% of its play areas considered as poor or worse. The two play areas in Fleckney are rated as very poor.

These will be upgraded in a rolling programme in 2007/08 by Harborough District Council.

A number of sites for young people and children come in for some criticism within the Western Area and Peatling and Bosworth such as the play area in Gilmorton and Byre Crescent and Cottage Lane play areas in Broughton Astley. Overall however, in the Western area there is general satisfaction with the quality of sites for young people and children with 73% rated as good or very good.

Accessibility

Accessibility of provision for children and young people in the District as a whole is excellent, as 80% of sites are rated as good or very good. Only 7% of sites are rated as poor or very poor. This is the second lowest percentage of sites rated negatively within the PPG17 report, suggesting that along with cemeteries and churchyards, play areas are the most accessible type of open space within the District of Harborough.

Consultation has identified that wheelchair access to some playgrounds is difficult. Accessibility for the disabled, to and within sites of play provision, should therefore be considered in any future improvements or new developments.

Only 4 sites in total were deemed to have poor or very poor accessibility. These were Gilmorton play area, Bellfields Road Recreation Ground play area in Market Harborough, Harrisons Field playground in Claybrooke and a play area attached to a public house in Peatling Parva. Improvements have recently been made to Bellfields Recreation Ground car park improving the accessibility for all users.

The two areas with the best accessibility were North East Rural and Peatling and Bosworth with 78% and 73% of ratings good or very good respectively.

Catchment

Catchment areas have been used to identify appropriate accessibility standards for play areas.

The Local Plan identifies the recommendations for play provision adopted by the NPFA, suggesting:

- local area for play (LAP) – unsupervised open space for children – within one minute walk from the house
- local equipped area for play (LEAP)– unsupervised equipped area for play for children of early school age – within a five minute walk of home
- neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) – unsupervised site equipped primarily for older children but with opportunities for younger children – within 15 minutes walk of home.

Based on consultation responses, the mean, median and modes are outlined in table 9.1 overleaf. In addition, in accordance with PPG17, the time that 75% of the population is willing to travel is also shown.



Table 6.3 Time prepared to travel

Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils							Members
	Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%	General Consensus
Walk	10	10	5	5	20	10 minutes	5 minutes
Cycle	5	5	5	2	10		
Bus	10	11	10	2	30		
Car	5	7	5	1	15		

Again, and similar to amenity green space, local needs and expectations suggest that play provision is a local amenity and should be located close to places of residence.

Most consultees expect to be able to walk to a play area, rather than drive, cycle or use public transport.

Consultation highlighted that residents expected to be able to walk to a play area within 5 to 10 minutes. There was a feeling that an adequately sized play area should be provided within this catchment but people are more prepared to travel to larger sites with more equipment. Some people indicated that a walk of up to 20 minutes is acceptable; however the modal response was 5 minutes.

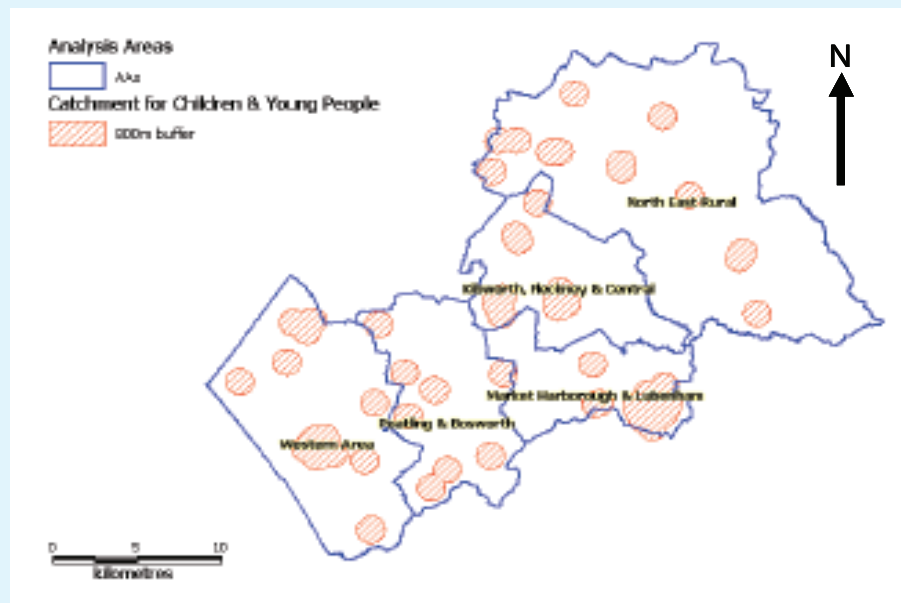
75% of those consulted are willing to travel up to 10 minutes to use a play area. This suggests, as shown in summary table 6.4 below, that play areas should be located within 400 – 800 metres of their residents.

Table 6.4 Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Play Areas	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
5 - 10 minute walk	400m - 800m

Figure 6.5 below illustrates the application of this standard to the provision of children and young people within the district.

Figure 6.5 – Accessibility Threshold



As can be seen in Figure 6.5, there are many areas within the District that are outside of the recommended catchment area although many of these maybe very rural where a limited number of people live.

A number of sites have high levels of usage in addition to very good quality and very good accessibility. These sites are of high value to the community and should be protected. They include:

- The Headlands Recreation Ground Play Area, Market Harborough
- Roman Way Play Area, Market Harborough
- Sherrard Road Play Area, Market Harborough
- Little Bowden Play Area, Market Harborough
- Logan Street Recreation Play Area, Market Harborough
- Welland Park Play Area, Market Harborough
- Billlesdon Primary School Play Area
- Village Play Area, Gaulby Way - Stoughton
- Houghton on the Hill Playing Field Play Area.

Most sites that have a high level of use usually have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. The majority of sites with a low level of use have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked. Cottage Lane Play Area and the Children's Play Area in Lubenham are exceptions to this – they have high use and accessibility, despite their poor quality.

There are no sites for young people and children where usage is low and both quality and accessibility are either very poor or poor, or very good or good. However there are four playgrounds in the District where accessibility is not a problem but they have low usage and are of poorer quality. The quality of these sites should be enhanced in order to increase usage and improve the value of the site. Sites in this category include:

- Village Hall and Small Play Area - Little Stretton
- Folly Field Play Area – Mowsley

In addition, there are a number of sites in the District where despite high quality and accessibility, usage is poor. It is unclear as to whether their current purpose is appropriate, but more investigations may highlight this. These sites include:

- Tilton Play Area
- Orchard Road – Lutterworth
- Public House Garden and Play Area – Swinford
- Hog Lane Play Park – Hallaton



Management arrangements

To ensure quality of play areas is maintained, an independent annual assessment of the play equipment is undertaken by RoSPA which is also available to Parish Councils. Parish Councils are supported by the Local Authority and regular advice and information on ensuring the safety of their play equipment and courses on play inspections. Weekly inspections are also undertaken on District Council owned sites by trained officers.

The role and value of local volunteers in helping to deliver quality play provision is recognised. There are a large number of play areas in the rural villages that are provided by local volunteers and are maintained by management committees. These play areas fill a very important gap in provision for the community where they are provided. Safety and insurance is a high priority for these areas where committee members are willing but usually untrained. The cost of insurance is high with little or no choice of provider. Without real financial support, some areas may be forced to close down because of the prohibitive costs involved linked with the high degree of maintenance needed.



- Section Seven - LOCAL STANDARDS

The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the District of Harborough.

There are national standards for children's play space provided by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), which suggests 0.81ha per 1,000 population is provided. The current quantitative standards set by the District Council are based upon this recommendation.

As indicated previously, the Local Plan and National standards include the amenity green space surrounding play areas, in addition to the equipped area. These standards are therefore not directly comparable with the PPG17 audit undertaken and the local provision standards developed for this local needs assessment PPG17 study, which are outlined below.

Current levels of provision for young people and children in the District amount to 9.92 hectares, which equates to a total of 0.13 hectares per 1000 population.

The local provision standards justified through the analysis are detailed below. The methodology for setting these standards has been followed in accordance with PPG17 and using both qualitative and quantitative information sources both from the audit and from consultation. Standards have been developed in terms of both accessibility and quantity.

Open Space Type	Suggested Quantity Provision Standard
Provision for Children and Young People	0.3 ha per 1000 population

Good Play Provision

Harborough District commits to the principles of Best Play, which is a widely recognised benchmark document describing the outcome objectives for play provision. There are seven key objectives which are bullet pointed below:

- Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it
- Recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need
- Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm
- Maximises the range of play opportunities
- Fosters independence and healthy self-esteem
- Fosters the child's respect for others and offer opportunities for social interaction
- Fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn

From Best Play – What play provision should do for children NPFA/PLAYLINK/Children's Play Council (2001)



There is reference in the above bullet points to recognising that children and young people often want to test the boundaries. The recognition of the need for **stimulating play** is recognised by Harborough District Council, but it is planned and monitored within a framework of 'managing risk in play provision'.

This includes basing play provision under the following conditions:

- The likelihood was extremely low
- The hazards were too clear to users
- There were obvious benefits
- Further reduction of the risk would remove the benefits
- There were no reasonably practicable ways to manage the risk

Managing a balance between the risks and the benefits is done on the basis of a risk assessment. This includes clear, well understood policies, together with procedures that put these policies into practice for the risk management in play provision.

Good play provision is underpinned by the understanding of providing **quality play** environments. These are committed to through the following indicative criteria of creating an enriched play environment:

Play provision should provide opportunities for:

- A varied and interesting physical environment
- Challenge, in relation to the physical environment
- Playing with the natural elements - earth, water, fire, air
- Movement - e.g. running, jumping, rolling, climbing and balancing
- Manipulating natural and fabricated materials
- Stimulation of the five senses
- Experiencing change in the natural and built environment
- Social interactions
- Playing with identity
- Experiencing a range of emotions

From Best Play – What play provision should do for children NPFA/PLAYLINK/Children's Play Council (2001)

The quality of **upgrading and renewing play** equipment is maintained through a series of checks. Evaluation criteria is applied by considering the play value, equipment safety record, environmental policies and all contracts have to comply with the Local Authorities Standing Order Procedures. This incorporates compliance with the European Standard EN1177 and 76 and a guarantee of quality and durability for at least ten years. As standard, all new equipment has contact details to enable members of the public to report defective equipment or equipment that needs repairing. These are responded to within set procedures and non-useable equipment will be decommissioned until it is safe to use again.



- Section Eight - BIG LOTTERY APPLICATION

The Play Strategy for Harborough District aims to fulfil the Government's requirement around play and proposes a way forward and action plan for accessing the £200,000 grant available for Harborough District from the National Lottery.

The Big Lottery is keen to support projects which have a direct deliverable outcome and they will not support:

- Ideas
- Capacity building
- Restructuring current services
- Training projects
- Play therapy
- Parenting classes
- Not inclusive projects (disabled/minority group projects)
- Structured play
- Consultation projects

Projects for the Big Lottery Funding



LOTTERY FUNDED

The projects have taken into consideration the following criteria:

- That any projects would need to be started within a six month timescale once the Lottery has agreed the funding.
- The practicalities of targeting the provision, which would benefit a wide range of children and young people across the whole age span, including those children and young people with disabilities.
- Projects have been targeted where the quickest possible outcome can be achieved and that support for the project is likely to be welcomed.

The three areas in particular which need immediate improvement are:

- Market Harborough
- Fleckney
- Lutterworth

Through the play strategy consultation, children and young people from Market Harborough, Fleckney and Lutterworth had said that these areas were in need of improvement. The PPG 17 audit agreed with this and further more identified Fleckney as requiring immediate improvement. Broughton Astley is being targeted for replacement equipment in 2007 and discussions have already taken place with residents and their local youth council as to where and what provision is required. Broughton Astley Health check Action group is also developing an action plan with support from the Rural Community Council, and Harborough District Council.

Alongside fixed facility improvements, there is also a need to break down barriers which disallows play to be inclusive within the District. Barriers such as children feeling intimidated and fearful of older peers, and the fear of being bullied all contribute to play being exclusive to certain groups of children and young people. Actual physical barriers and ability to play freely is also an issue which is identified throughout this Strategy. Other matters such as 'stranger danger' and traffic all contribute to children participating and having access to play. To rectify this problem, a number of play rangers will be employed to address barriers of play, and to ensure play is inclusive throughout the District.

Market Harborough Project

Much work has already been done within a number of existing projects including the Welland Park Green Flag Award Plan in **Market Harborough**. The needs analysis identifies recreation at parks and the provision of quality sports facilities as needs, and the Local Area Agreement identifies targets for children and young people for participating in physical activity through walking, cycling and green gyms. The Council's open spaces plan highlights the needs for provision of quality equipment for children and young people.

The Aims and Objectives of the Project are:

- To provide unique and innovative play in Market Harborough's Welland park.

Situated on the edge of an area of housing recognised to be some of the most deprived in the District, this will give play opportunities to children within walking distance of Welland Park, and attract parents and children from further a field.

The proposed play equipment is to be themed to give greater visual impact, more exciting play opportunities and to complement the surrounding landscape.

Outcomes:

It is proposed that the play equipment is themed around a Galleon Ship, with the centre piece catering for children of three years and upwards.

Three low play mounds will be constructed to represent desert islands, and each 'island' will have a different theme. e.g. safari parks, lost world and pirate island.

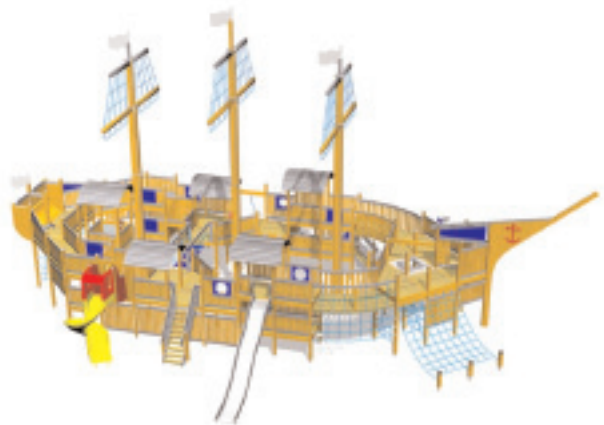
The play area will be fully enclosed with fencing, and will incorporate other favourite pieces of equipment such as swings and rockers.

It is proposed that seating and picnic tables be provided to give places for carers to sit, and picnics to be eaten.

All equipment installed will be inclusive, and will meet DDA and other current EU legislation concerned with play equipment construction.

Harborough District Council will monitor and maintain the play equipment, and an annual inspection will be undertaken by RoSPA or others to ensure that the items meet stringent safety requirements.

Environmental issues are a high priority for Harborough District Council, and only play equipment suppliers that can demonstrate a commitment to a sustainable approach to manufacturing will be considered.



Fleckney Project

Aim and objectives:

- To enhance the lack of provision and poor quality of unsupervised play equipment for children and young people in Fleckney by developing a skateboard and BMX park.



Unsupervised play provision for older children and young people in Fleckney are poor. Play areas for children under the age of 10 are also rated as poor, but these facilities will be addressed under the annual review and upgrading of equipment delivered by Harborough District Council. Supervised provision is currently being developed and improved in partnership with Harborough District Council, Fleckney Parish Council, Leicestershire Youth Service and Leicestershire Clubs for Young People.

A group of youth people from the village approached Fleckney Parish Council and in turn Harborough District Council to suggest what provision they would like to have within their community. Developmental work is currently being co-ordinated with this group and the proposed project is to develop a skate and BMX park next to the existing sports and recreational ground.

There will be a consultation event with the young people for the design on content of the skate park to be identified. There after the play company who is awarded the tender will liaise very closely with the young peoples group to deliver the project.

Outcomes:

It is proposed that the play equipment will consist of:

- Skate and BMX ramps
- Any other features which will ensure that the children and young people feel safe and secure in the parks location e.g. ample lighting and natural surveillance and ample access to ensure inclusively.

All equipment installed will be inclusive, and will meet DDA and other current EU legislation concerned with play equipment construction.

Fleckney Parish Council will monitor and maintain the play equipment, and an annual inspection will be undertaken by RoSPA or others to ensure that the items meet stringent safety requirements.

Lutterworth, Coventry Road Play Area Project

Consultation with children and young people, has recognised the lack of provision of play opportunities by Lutterworth Town Council and Lutterworth Improvement Partnership. Coventry Road play area, which is under the responsibility of the Town Council, is an excellent project where the need has been identified and the willingness to work in partnership can be implemented quickly.



Aim and objectives:

- To enhance the lack of provision and poor quality of play opportunities for children under the age of fourteen.

The play area for this project is centrally located in Lutterworth and is a focal point for the community, surrounded by a multi-court, skate park and Lutterworth Sports Centre. All other amenities are well used with the exception of the current play area. The aim of the project is to enhance the play provision for children under the age of fourteen, to enjoy and to establish Coventry Road as the attractive site that it deserves to be and thus fulfilling its potential.

An awareness campaign highlighting the improved facilities that are available for children will be a key factor in the success of the project.

The proposed play equipment will be innovative and will attract two age groups with a range of Under-7 and Under-14 equipment. There will be suitable play equipment for children with disabilities as there is currently no equipment of this nature within the site. The play area is sufficiently large, enabling children to play in lots of space, which was identified as a way of making a play area exciting. The site is nevertheless fully enclosed with fencing, allowing children to feel safe and parents to be more content if their children are left unsupervised.

Outcomes:

It is proposed that the play equipment will consist of:

- Swings
- Adventure / trail equipment
- Role play
- Rockers
- Multi play unit
- Balancing equipment

Current projects in the pipeline for Coventry Road recreation ground include:

- a new pedestrian pathway to the play area from either side of the recreation ground – Coventry Road and Holly Drive – to facilitate access for mothers and toddlers, and those in pushchairs and/or wheelchairs.
- Safer route to school with associated signing and footway markings that were identified following a school travel plan completed by Sherrier Primary School in conjunction with Leicestershire County Council.

A new play area would be complemented by these projects, which will be undertaken in 2007-08, resulting in a facility that would be extremely child-friendly and accessible for all.

All equipment installed will be inclusive and will meet DDA and other current EU legislation concerned with play equipment construction.

Lutterworth Town Council will monitor and maintain the play equipment on a daily basis, with a contracted company carrying out quarterly inspections. An annual inspection will also be undertaken by RoSPA or others to ensure that the items meet stringent safety requirements.

Environmental issues are a high priority for Lutterworth Town Council, and only play equipment suppliers that can demonstrate a commitment to a sustainable approach to manufacturing will be considered.

Play Rangers – District-wide



The overall aim of this Strategy is to increase free play provision for the children and young people of Harborough District, and to ensure all provision is inclusive. The above three projects identifies areas of need in terms of location and facilities. However, this project looks to address the barriers which disallow children and young people to participate and access play facilities and open spaces.

Aims and Objectives:

To enhance play and to remove barriers for inclusive play throughout the District by employing Community Play Rangers. The Rangers will be detached workers who will deliver arts, sports and free play activities where needed. The mobile project will be free and inclusive to all children and will work alongside the needs identified by local play partnerships (see action plan for development work with Local Improvement Partnerships and the voluntary sector). The project will work with specially targeted groups and specific geographical areas and may work alongside any newly developed natural play spaces in order to build the confidence of the local community by creating supervised opportunities for play. The rangers will consult with the children and young people and the community in order to develop the types of activities on offer, which will provide better quality and wider range of accessible free play experiences than what are currently available.

The chill out bus can be utilised to offer a base for the detached workers while on site if appropriate. This will help with transporting the workers and their equipment on site, but also as a base for the workers to engage with the children and to act as a temporary shelter or meeting point.

The rangers will act as a catalyst for future use of existing natural and built environments in order to deliver play. The type of play provided will offer increased opportunities for children and young people to test boundaries, be challenged and take measured risks with the support of the rangers.

Outcomes:

All children of all ages will benefit from this free service. Specially targeted groups with specific needs will benefit more to ensure that play facilities are accessible for them directly, and that barriers are taken down for them to access mainstream facilities and services. Other community groups and organisations will benefit from a co-ordinated approach for service delivery of play provisions, which will enhance and increase accessibility for existing facilities and services. Signposting these services by the play rangers will improve the service users as well as improve service delivery throughout the District.



- Section Nine - EVALUATION PLAN

The impact of the Play Strategy needs to be assessed against a variety of evaluation tools to determine whether unstructured play opportunities for children and young people have been improved in line with the Action Plan.

However, measuring success and outcomes is not simple with many partners recording their own information and not being 'smart' in thinking how these indicators can be recorded on a central system for use by all agencies.

Harborough District's evaluation approach will be based on developing a comprehensive performance management system, which will ensure that links and cross references are made with the following:

- Children's and Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement
- Undertake yearly audits about how children and young people feel about play
- Using the Green Stat recording system
- Performance management of the action plan
- Create database of all available play activities and use performance management to evaluate whether it's working in addition to asking children and young people what they think

It will be the responsibility of the multi-agency group to develop this as part of one of their first key actions to ensure the successful implementation of the Play Strategy.



- Section Ten - ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan demonstrates how the Strategy ensures that provision across all ages is considered. This is to establish equity of provision and the recognition of the importance of continued play opportunities from birth into adulthood.

One of the key outcomes of the Play Strategy consultation was the recognition that provision should strive to support the needs of the children and young people regardless of their age, ability or where they live.

The longer term action plan tries to address this by recognising and valuing the contributions that agencies are making to ensure that Harborough District becomes a more child friendly environment. The actions clearly set out what we are going to do to improve play provision and how we can assess whether the Play Strategy has achieved the outcomes it was aiming to achieve.

The long term sustainable growth, development and maintenance of all play provision will be assisted by various sources of funding, which include play's contribution to Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan, Local Area Agreements and pooled budget and possible joint commissioning arrangements between partners. It will also link to long term plans with the Council including new housing and retail developments and the links with Section 106 funding.

TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF PLAY

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To raise the aims and objectives of the Play Strategy with the actions being incorporated into key Council and partner agencies strategic plans including Local Development Framework, PCT, Economic Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership, the community and voluntary sector.	To ensure the benefits of play are included in key strategies to improve service, delivery and funding resources.	Officers time to develop working relationships with other internal colleagues and external key partners. This will aid the development of the implementation of incorporating play into other strategic plans.	To have play incorporated into at least one strategic plan by September 2008, and three plans by September 2009.	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership	September 2009

To rise the awareness of the importance of play at community level within the District.	To encourage parents and children to utilise play facilities and to also use other non-specified space as areas for play. To help parents understand the key benefits of play and how they can enable their children to do so.	Officers time in publicity events and public relations. The cost of any specific publicity materials. The use of Harborough District Councils PR officer.	To gain regular publicity for the importance of play by having media coverage on a quarterly basis.	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership Children's Centres and extended schools Home Start Play Rangers	Ongoing
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To raise awareness with Parish Councils to incorporate play into Parish Plans	To ensure the needs of the children and young people in each parish are addressed at a local level.	Officers time to develop relationships with the Parish Councils and the RCC to put play on the agenda for Parish Plans, and to ensure children and young people are engaged with the consultation for the plans.	To ensure play is part of all new parish plans	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership RCC Parish Councils	Ongoing
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Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To work with Local Improvement Partnerships to develop play at a local level.	<p>Increased social capital support from wide range of local organisations.</p> <p>To ensure play development is part of core business with the Improvement Partnerships and delivered at a local level, determined by local need.</p> <p>To develop links with the local extended school partnerships.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships Manager at HDC to develop local area management approach with Improvement Partnerships.</p> <p>Children's Services Manager to facilitate service network with the partnership.</p> <p>To work with the extended services co-ordinators to co-ordinate existing services available and to help deliver services on a needs basis.</p>	<p>To have 10 local volunteers participating in local play activity by September 2009, and increasing by the same year on year.</p> <p>All local schools to be engaged in local play provision by 2010.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships Manager - HDC</p> <p>Play Partnership</p> <p>Local Improvement Partnerships</p> <p>Children's Services Manager</p> <p>Extended Services Co-ordinators</p>	Ongoing

To hold a play event in 2008 in conjunction with Play England	To raise awareness of the benefits of play to the community	Officers time to promote the event and then to support groups who want to participate.	Unknown until theme is agreed for 2008 by Play England	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership	September 2008
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To enable communities to self-organise street parties	<p>To build social cohesion, giving community space over to play and recreation for a limited period, and for the community to get to know each other including the children and young people.</p> <p>To help reduce fear and anti-social behaviour and to build trust amongst the community and neighbours.</p>	<p>Officers time to co-ordinate an event to promote the benefits of street parties and the positive impact it can have within the community.</p> <p>Funding to host the annual events.</p>	To host annual presentation days in March for community groups to attend to support groups in organising their street parties.	Community Safety Partnership	March 2008
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TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITY, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To remove barriers which can stop children and young people participating in play, in terms of fear of bullying, social exclusion or physical ability to participate	To increase provision of free play in the District to all children and young people, and to ensure all provision is inclusive.	Revenue funding for recruitment of Play Rangers Transport and equipment for the rangers Office space and mobile telephones for each ranger Uniforms and publicity material for each ranger	To recruit at least two Play Rangers by September 2008 To target at least two hard to reach groups of children to enable access to mainstream play facilities	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership	September 2008

For children and young people to be involved in the development of play areas through establishing a framework for their involvement in the design and location.	Children and young people are consulted with regards to play areas and locations so that the sites are suited to their needs. This will ensure good participation and usage for the development of play areas.	Funding for the framework to be established. Officers time to co-ordinate and implement framework for consultation and involvement of children and young people in line with 'Every Child Matters' and 'Here by right'.	To ensure all play developments have consulted the children and young people prior to the design phase within the identified locality.	Open Spaces Manager Children's Services Manager	September 2008
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To improve access and lighting and natural surveillance if needed for existing play facilities to improve accessibility and usage for all children and young people to use.	To ensure high levels of usage is seen for play areas within the District, and that children and young people feel safe within the play setting.	Officers time to assess and to co-ordinate the response. Cost of labour to deliver changes. Cost of materials if need to be purchased		Street Scene Services Highways Parish and Town Councils	On going
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Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
Ensure that new development is complemented by recreation provision which meets the needs of children and young people, in line with the recommended standards for children's play space (recommended by the National Playing Fields Association)	To achieve the objectives of the play strategy by striving for 0.3 hectares of play space per 1,000 population	Officers time to resource funding through section 106, external streams and revenue funds.	To recruit at least two Play Rangers by September 2008 To target at least two hard to reach groups of children to enable access to mainstream play facilities	Development Control Manager Head of Community Services Open Spaces Manager	Ongoing

Replacement of play equipment within the District as identified through the PPG 17 audit	To improve the play areas as identified in the PPG 17 audit and in turn to increase usage and access to the sites.	Section 106 and Street Scene Services budgets	As identified within the parks and open spaces plan	Open Spaces Manager	Ongoing
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TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE PLAY PROVISION

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To work with the LSP, Local Improvement Partnerships, Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, Parishes and County Council to improve play provision at a local level	To have a holistic approach to play and making best use of resources to increase quality and quantity of play provision	Officers time to co-ordinate partnership approach Partners to have officer resource to attend meetings and to deliver associated actions from partnership meetings	To establish at least one local play partnership to include the LSP, Local Improvement Partnership, VASL, Parish Council and County Council by September 2008 To have three local play partnerships established by September 2010	LSP Play Partnership Children's Services Manager	September 2008 September 2010

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To support and promote volunteer activity in all areas of play from playgrounds to youth clubs (linking in with the Youth Strategy Action Plan)	To increase the amount of volunteer activity in play settings around the district, this in turn will improve play services within the communities.	Officers time to support and establish voluntary bodies to provide play activity, and source any relevant funding to deliver this.	To hold a promotional awareness programme for volunteers within the play setting in conjunction with VASL.	Children's Services Manager Play Partnership Voluntary Action South Leicestershire	September 2008

Apply and achieve Green Flag Status for Welland Park, and to fulfil the Welland Park Management Action Plan	To promote the park and its facilities and to ensure it is managed to its best potential. This will increase usage of the park and its facilities in the largest populated area within the district.	Officers time to co-ordinate this approach.	To achieve the Green Flag Status each year.	Street Scene Services	Annually
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Establish a Friends of Welland Park Group with Children and Young People as part of the group	To consult with the children and young people who use the park, and to ensure that the facilities are suited to their needs. Also for the group to encourage non users to use the facilities and play areas.	Officers time to support and facilitate the group.	To establish the group by September 2008, and to include representatives for children and young people.	Street Scene Services Community Services	September 2008
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To work in partnership with the County Sports Partnership to help develop sports opportunities for children and young people For Play Rangers to work with volunteers and sports coaches and local clubs to broaden sports activities on offer to children and young people	To enhance opportunities for children and young people to actively participate in physical activity	Officers time	To create a network of Early years Physical activity specialists working with Early Years Providers	County Sports Partnership Sports Development Officer	March 2008
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TO COMMIT TO DEVELOPING A WIDER CHILD-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WILL INCREASE CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY FOR PLAY WHENEVER, AND WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To submit the 4 projects highlighted in this Strategy to the Big Lottery Funding	To be successful in the bid and receive £200,000 for the investment into the play projects	Officers time in completing the bid	To be successful in obtaining the funding	Children's Services Manager	September 2007

To implement the four projects if the funding bid is successful	To improve the play sites in the three highlighted areas and for increased play in terms of the play rangers	Officers time to facilitate the delivery of the projects.	To have commenced work within six months of being successful on securing the funding. For the three projects to have been completed by 2010.	Children's Services Manager Open Spaces Manager	September 2008
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To evaluate the effectiveness of play provision within the District by developing an online survey and other methods to gauge the views of children and young people	To ensure existing provision is of good standard and is being used by children and young people. If not to rectify the problems.	It software – GreenStat Officers time to implement and promote the awareness of the software Officers time to analysis the collected data Staff and funding to resolve issues depending on the needs analysis.	To successfully install the software by September 2008 To analysis the data collection on a quarterly basis	Open Spaces Manager Play Partnership	September 2008 Ongoing
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Investigate the possibility of a country park in the area surrounding Market Harborough. Any developments to be inclusive of Children's play provision	To increase parks and open spaces within Market Harborough with specific space for children and young people.	Officers time to investigate possibility in line with the Open Spaces Plan. Any associated costs with delivering the plan.	To have investigated a suitable location for the country park and to have secured relevant funding and planning by 2010.	Harborough District Council	2010
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TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL VISION OF A CHILD-FRIENDLY DISTRICT

Key Actions	Outcomes	Resources	KPI	Lead Officer	Deadline
To be involved within Section 106 funding bids	To secure funding for delivery of improvements to play facilities within the district	Officers time to attend section 106 funding meetings and to place relevant bids into funding.	To have secured at least one funding stream for improving play sites within the district by September 2009	Children's Services Manager Head of Community Services	Ongoing

To have strong links with the Local Area Framework	To be aware of potential sites for development of leisure sites	Officers time to co-ordinate approach	To attend at least 60% of relevant meetings to ensure officers are kept up to date on the LAF and in a position to highlight the need for parks and open spaces.	Head of Community Services Open Spaces Manager	Ongoing
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To achieve established status for 'Hear by Right' for Harborough District Council	Children and young people to have a way to voice their opinions and to participate in the decisions regarding the services which they receive.	Officers time	To achieve 'emerging' status by 2007 To achieve 'Established' status by March 2009	Children's Services Manager	2007 March 2009
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- Appendix A - OTHER PROVISION

This section covers 'structured' play provision which is not covered within the PPG 17 audit. However, it is important to recognise the contribution, links and cross referencing that the Play Strategy should have with structured play provision.

The audit was undertaken by researching and involving other key providers by utilising their existing information systems.

Childcare provision

The table below represents where childcare provision is available, which age group it is targeted at, when the provision is available and the facilities that are offered. This list may not be exhaustive but identifies the provision that is known and recorded by Leicestershire County Council Child Care Information Service.

Name of provision	Age range	Availability	Facilities
Castle Lane Day Nursery, Market Harborough	4-11 yrs	School holidays	Separate after school clubs, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, climbing frame, TV/video, quiet room, sleeping area, visits and outings, catering facilities, computer, separate indoor playground
Welland Park Community College Pre School	2 mths – 5 yrs	School holidays	Quiet room, large activity room, safe environment designed for young children, messy play, outdoor equipment/toys, outdoor play area
LCC Pre school and nursery	3 yrs – 5 yrs	Summer holidays	craft area, group games
Kids Klub Ullesthorpe	4yrs 6mths- 11 yrs 6mths	Summer holidays	Information not available
Old School Nursery Out of School Club	4 yrs to 11 yrs	School holidays	Individual outdoor play areas and equipment, sleeping area, quiet room, catering facilities, TV/video, open space
Market Harborough Nursery School	4 yrs – 11 yrs	School holidays	Sand play, messy play, role play, sports activities, visits and outings, open space, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, catering facilities, quiet room, water play, games area, open plan, computer room, large secure outdoor play area, craft area, creative play

Name of provision	Age range	Availability	Facilities
Kids Club Play scheme Market Harborough Leisure Centre	5 yrs – 11yrs 11mths	Weekdays, school holidays	Open space, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, catering facilities
Thomas Estley Children's Centre Broughton Astley	4 yrs to 11yrs	Before school, after school and school term-times	Cookery, TV/video, gym, outdoor play area, open space
Kids Klub Ullesthorpe	4yr 6 mths – 11 yrs	After school, before school, school holidays	Arts and craft, catering facilities, climbing frame, computer, homework area, open space, outdoor play, quiet room, TV/video, visits and outings
St Josephs Primary School, Market Harborough	5 yrs – 11 yrs	After school, term-time	Catering facilities, computer, open space, outdoor play, TV/video
Market Harborough Nursery school	5 yrs – 11yrs	School term-times	Creative play, craft area, large secure outdoor play area, computer room, open plan, games area, water play, quiet room, catering facilities, individual outdoor play area and equipment, open space, visits and outings, sports activities, role play, messy play, sand play
St Andrews Play Scheme After School Club	5 yrs – 14 yrs	Weekdays, early mornings and afternoons	Computer, open space, quiet room, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, catering facilities, climbing frame, TV/video
Bitteswell After School Club	5 yrs – 11yrs	Term-times, after school	Computer, TV/video, catering facilities, climbing equipment, outdoor play area, quiet room, open space
Lutterworth Day Nursery and Out of School Club	5yrs -12 yrs	School holidays	Pets, climbing frame, large indoor play area, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, open space, TV/video, sleeping area, catering facilities, visits and outings
Purple Rocket Nursery Thurnby	5 yrs – 10 yrs	Information not available	Painting, cookery, singing, music and dance, gardening, creative play, computer, TV/video, sleeping area, quiet room, outdoor play, open space, catering facilities
Castle Lane Day Nursery, Market Harborough	5yrs – 11yrs	After school, school term-times	Separate after school clubs, separate indoor playground, computer, catering facilities, visits and outings, sleeping area, quiet room, TV/video, climbing frame, individual outdoor play areas and equipment
Old School Nursery Out of School Club Kibworth	4yrs – 11yrs	School holidays, after school, school term-times	TV/video, open space, individual outdoor play areas and equipment, quiet room, catering facilities, sleeping area

Home Start offers a unique range of opportunities to help families who have additional needs and is demonstrated below.

Market Harborough: running since 1984, this group supports up to 20 families at any one time, i.e. approx 60 children per year.

Broughton Astley: running since 2003, this group works with up to 12 families at any one time, i.e. approx 25-30 children per year.

The groups provide a safe, supportive, affordable, accessible and non-judgemental environment, where health and safety and healthy eating are promoted. The children access quality play opportunities provided by staff, with the help of volunteers. Through 'parenting by example' they gently encourage parents, in an unthreatening way, to play with their children.

Summary

There is a good range of quality provision available ranging from babies up to 14 years old. The provision is spasmodic across the whole of the Harborough District. Some of the providers offer a walking bus facility and pick up arrangements from neighbouring primary schools. They have staff qualified in pre-school practice and have a first aid qualification. The diversity of activities that are available for children is evident within the table and provides an example of the quality and balance between innovative play ideas and an opportunity for quiet time. There is a variety of venues that are used for the provision, from schools to sports centres. With the development of extended services in schools, there is a real opportunity that where future need is identified for childcare provision, schools may be able to offer venues which are safe and secure for children to play in.

Youth activities

Youth provision covers a wide range of activities from active sport to personal and social development opportunities. These are demonstrated below with the major provision being centred on the main towns.

The table below represents in detail some of the range of activities based within these towns.

Billesdon	Coplow Centre 13, Uppingham Road Billesdon LEICESTER LE7 9FL	Sports hall, badminton, outdoor 5-a-side football, tennis, bowls hall (short mat), all weather pitches, and function room available for hire, karate and dance classes.
Market Harborough	Harborough Leisure Centre Northampton Road MARKET HARBOROUGH LE16 9HF	Sports hall, badminton, 5-a-side football, netball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, health suite, swimming pool, fitness suite, bowls hall, dance studio, crèche, refreshment facilities, and function room available for hire and tennis dome.
Market Harborough	Robert Smyth School Burnmill Road MARKET HARBOROUGH LE16 7JG	Sports hall, badminton, 5-a-side football, netball, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, tennis, sports field and fitness suite / gym
Lutterworth	Lutterworth Grammar School & Community College Bitteswell Road LUTTERWORTH LE17 4EW	Sports Hall, all weather games area, 5-a-side football, netball, volleyball, tennis, function room available for hire, all weather pitches, dance studio and conference centre

Lutterworth	Lutterworth Sports Centre Lutterworth Pool Bitteswell Road LUTTERWORTH LE17 4EN	Sports hall, badminton, 5-a-side football, netball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, sun beds, crèche, refreshment facilities, function room available for hire, swimming pool, fitness suite / gym and dance studio
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In addition to this, there are the more traditional sports grounds and recreations fields, which are available for use by children and young people.

Area	Provision
Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation ground and two playing fields
Great Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports ground • Archery club
Thurnby and Bushby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manor Field recreation ground • Wadkins sports ground
Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing field • Cricket ground • Recreation ground and tennis club • Golf course • Kibworth Sports Centre • Bowls club
Scraptoft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golf course • Sports ground • Cricket field • Memorial park
Fleckney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wistow country park • Recreation and sports centre • Lodge Road football ground
Lutterworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields • Recreation ground and bowls • Cricket ground • Lutterworth country park • Skateboard park and ball court



Youth leisure provision

This section covers the work of the Youth Service and shows the range of opportunities available to young people including those from vulnerable groups such as young parents, young people from the traveller community and those with special needs.

Group/Activity type	Location	Age range	Activity
Duke of Edinburgh Lutterworth	Youth Centre	14+	Award scheme open to young people over 14
Inclusion Project	Lutterworth Youth Centre	13+	Youth Achievement group
Babysitting course	Lutterworth Youth Centre	14+	Lunchtime session babysitting course
Young Parents	Lutterworth Youth Centre		Group for young parents
Seniors	Lutterworth Youth Centre	13+	Open to all young people in Lutterworth and district
Walton Girls Group	Walton Village Hall	12-17	Girls group
ASC for girls	Lutterworth Youth Centre	12-16	Girls group
Special Needs Award Group	Lutterworth Youth Centre	13+	Young people with special needs as part of a group
Youth Club Council	Lutterworth Youth Centre	14+	
Drop in access to all young people	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	13-25	Drop in, personal and social development
Gypsy crew	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	12-15	Community cohesion/diversity and cultural awareness
Outreach to school	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	15-19	Outreach
Young Parents – Greater Expectations	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	13-25	Young parents
Music Project – Band Nights	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	13-25	Arts development
STEPS	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	13-25	Special needs
Adventure Service Challenge	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	13-14	13-14
Drop in – open to all young people 14+	Market Harborough Satellite Young People's Centre	14+	Drop in with personal and social development

Group/Activity type	Location	Age range	Activity
Lunch club – Youth Parliament	Thomas Estley Community College		At least one lunch time per week Sailing club
Thomas Estley Community College		May to October	Xtreme Team Youth Club
Thomas Estley Community College		Group for young people	with special needs
Youth 'nited	Thomas Estley Community College	Yr9+ 13+	Youth club Tuesday Youth club Thursday
Adventure service challenge	Thomas Estley Community College	Yr 8	
Duke of Edinburgh award Bronze	Thomas Estley Community College	13+	
Duke of Edinburgh award Silver	Thomas Estley Community College		
Top Team Girls' Group	Thomas Estley Community College	Yr 8+	From babysitting to canoeing
Chill Out Bus in Locality	Thomas Estley Community College		
Lunch club	Thomas Estley Community College		At least one lunch time per week
Local youth work Award Drop in	Thomas Estley Community College		
Rural Young People	Gt Easton Village Hall Medbourne Village Hall	12+	
Great Glen Youth Club	Kibworth	14-16	Open access to rural young people
D of E Bronze	Kibworth	13-14	Open access, accreditation
D of E Silver	Kibworth	14-16	Open access, accreditation
D of E Gold	Kibworth	16-18	Open access, accreditation
Adventure service challenge	Kibworth	12-14	Open access, accreditation
Music project	Kibworth	14-19	Personal development for young musicians
Billesdon Youth Club	Kibworth	11-16	Rural young people

This is **not inclusive** of all the facilities available and more information can be found covering other types of play provision and leisure opportunities on a number of different websites including Harborough District Council's website, Bridges' website and The Jitty, which is a website specifically aimed for young people. There is much voluntary and community based work with young people available. This includes work through the community and voluntary service such as the Brownies, Girl Guiding and Scouting movement.