

FEEDBACK FROM THE "TIME TO PLAY" REGIONAL CONSULTATION EVENTS:

REGION: SOUTH EAST

VENUE: GUILDFORD

DATE: 16TH NOVEMBER 2005

OVERVIEW:

54 DELEGATES FROM THE PLAY SECTOR IN THE REGION WERE INVITED TO COMMENT AND SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE PLANS AND POTENTIAL VALUE OF THE NEW BIG "CHILDREN'S PLAY PROGRAMME", PLANNED TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2006.

PARTICIPANTS WERE INVITED TO WORK IN SMALLER GROUPS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING 4 QUESTIONS:

- WHAT ARE THE CURRENT STRENGTHS OF THE PLAY SECTOR IN THE REGION?
- WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION?
- WHAT RANGE OF SERVICES SHOULD THE REGIONAL STRUCTURE OFFER?
- WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE STRUCTURE IS SUSTAINABLE AFTER THE BIG FUNDING ENDS?

MAIN HEADLINES:

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT MAIN STRENGTHS?

- THE COORDINATING ROLE OF SKILLSACTIVE, AND THE EMERGING DEVELOPMENT OF "ACTION RE:PLAY".
- GOOD PROVISION FOR UNDER 11'S
- EFFECTIVE PLAYWORKER/RANGER SCHEMES
- COMMITTED PLAY WORKFORCE
- PROMISING LINKS IN SOME AREAS WITH EXTENDED SCHOOLS
- MOST EARLY YEARS SERVICES ARE SUPPORTIVE OF PLAY AND SUPPORT THROUGH TRAINING
- EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES
- A WEALTH OF CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

WHAT ARE THE MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT?

- POSSIBLE MORE ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLANNING SERVICES
- MORE DEVELOPMENT OF PROVISION FOR THE OVER 11'S
- NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH EVIDENCE TO MAKE "PLAY" INDISPENSIBLE, NEED INDICATORS OF EFFECTIVENESS
- CLOSER WORKING WITH SECTION 106 PLANS, AND PLANNING OF OPEN SPACES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS AGENDA
- NEED FOR MORE INVOLVEMENT OF "UNREGISTERED PROVISION"LA'S DO NOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT IS BEING OFFERED IF NOT REGISTERED.
- MORE FUNDING FOR TRAINING ACROSS SECTORS
- MORE EMPHASIS ON LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY
- NEED TO EXPAND THE WORK ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH PLAY AS A MAINSTREAM SERVICE
- MORE WORK ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION
- STRONGER AND CLOSER LINKS WITH LSC SUBREGIONS
- PLAY SHOULD HAVE A STRONGER PART TO PLAY IN SOME OF THE CIS DEVELOPMENTS

WHAT SERVICES SHOULD THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDE?

- AWARENESS RAISING OF THE VALUE OF PLAY
- WORK WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRESS TO RAISE PROFILE OF PLAY
- INFORMATION AND ADVICE GIVING
- CAMPAIGNING FOR AND CONSULTING WITH PARENTS AND CHILDREN
- LOBBYING POLITICIANS AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS
- CASCADING POLICY AND PRACTICE ACROSS THE REGION
- COORDINATION OF NETWORKING EVENTS ACROSS GEOGRAPHICAL AND SPECIALISM SPECIFIC AREAS
- THE LOCATION SHOULD REFLECT THE DIVERSITY AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF THE SOUTH EAST, MAY NEED A STRUCTURE THAT IS SUBREGIONAL, WITH NO ONE FIXED LOCATION/IDENTITY
- INTERPRETATION OF NATIONAL POLICY AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL
- SUPPORT WITH FUNDRAISING/BID WRITING
- HELP WITH DEVELOPING AND MONITORING PLAY STRATEGIES

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE NEW SERVICE BECOMES SUSTAINABLE?

- NEEDS TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC POLICY SERVICE AGENDA
- NEEDS TO BE MAINSTREAMED/A STATUTORY SERVICE
- NEEDS TO BE MORE FOCUSED ON LINKING TO THE FIVE "EVERY CHILD MATTERS" OUTCOMES

- STRONGER EMPHASIS ON PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF UNDERPERFORMANCE
- DEVELOP LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF PLAY
- DEVELOP A NATIONAL/REGIONAL DISSEMINATION PROCESS TO SHARE EMERGING AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
- ENSURE THERE ARE CLEAR STATISTICAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESSES IN PLACE TO MEASURE IMPACT AND PROGRESS.
- ENSURE EFFECTIVE NEEDS ANALYSIS PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE
- CELEBRATE THE GOOD PRACTICE!

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