

## ANNEX A

Themes for Early Intervention Fund and Better Play Grants are set out below. Applicants will be expected to show clearly which 'theme/s' they are addressing. Applications may and can meet more than one theme but it must be very clear how the themes are being met.

### **Strategic Aim for the Early Intervention Fund (EIF):**

**The Early Intervention Fund will support vulnerable children\* (predominantly aged 5-13) and their families in York through a programme of targeted preventative and early intervention work, which will include strategic development, partnership and exemplary or innovative service provision.**

The programme will contribute to children having a safe, healthy, enjoyable childhood, playing a full part in community life and growing up prepared for adult life and improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children and families in the city

\* Vulnerable means at Level 2/3 in the hierarchy of need - for more information see [www.yor-ok.org.uk/commissioning](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/commissioning)

This aim was developed by the Early Intervention Fund Group after consideration of criteria for EIF, local and national plans and strategies, including LAA (2) and views of children and young people.

### **Principles:**

Supporting the strategic aim, there are a number of key principles. The bullet points in italics below provide further information about what would be expected from a proposal:

- Partnership between agencies, and between agencies and the community:
  - *Proposals must evidence partnership working. This may be evidenced through joint funding of work, joint delivery of work, or through supporting other practitioners or the wider community to deliver work.*
- Participation of children, young people and families in shaping strategy and services:
  - *Proposals must show that children and young people and/or families have been fully involved in the development of proposals and will be involved in future developments.*
- Prevention and Early Intervention:
  - Proposals must ensure constructive engagement with children and families as a means of helping to prevent the emergence of difficulties, therefore preventing poor outcomes for children or existing poor outcomes becoming worse;
  - Proposals must be targeted at level 2. A fuller description can be found on the YorOK website.

- Linking into key strategic developments in the city:
  - Proposals must link, for example, to the Children and Young People's plan and strategic planning and commissioning structures.
- Meeting evidenced-based need and evaluating all work to ensure it is best practice and continues to meet community need:
  - Proposals must show clearly that they are able to have a positive impact on outcomes for children now and in the future.

**Themes:**

1. **Support children to reduce their engagement in risky behaviours and engage in positive, challenging activities:**
  - 1.1 Identifying children becoming involved in risky behaviours, which may lead to poor outcomes, ensuring that their needs and appropriate support pathways are identified; and/or
  - 1.2 Developing systems which provide on-going support for children either through an identified lead worker/practitioner and/or engaging with wider community provision; and/or
  - 1.3 Promoting opportunities for children to engage in positive, challenging play and activities that meet the 9 Better Play objectives. (Specific funds are available for this sub-theme.)
2. **Improve the health and lifestyles of children:**
  - 2.1 Through making healthier choices to achieve;
    - 2.1.1 A healthier weight; and/or
    - 2.1.2 A reduction in young people drinking alcohol; and/or
  - 2.2 Through supporting the emotional health and well-being of children in order that they are more resilient.
3. **Support to parents and carers:**
  - 3.1 Developing support for parents and carers of all ages; and/or
  - 3.2 Developing support for young carers.
4. **Support the inclusion of vulnerable children in universal services through:**
  - 4.1 Supporting children at key transition points to be included in mainstream services (both as a means of prevention and a means of 'stepping-down' from more intensive support); and/or
  - 4.2 Supporting access to universal services of vulnerable children through community cohesion and development.
5. **Strategic development to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place to support the Change for Children agenda through:**
  - 5.1 Developing representation and capacity building within the voluntary and community sector; and/or
  - 5.2 Supporting the involvement and engagement of children and young people in planning and delivery of services; and/or
  - 5.3 Promoting cultural change to support the Every Child Matters agenda.

## **Strategic Aim for the Better Play Grant (BPG)**

The Better Play Grant is funding that is available to the voluntary and community sector, which aims to support organisations involved in the direct provision of places for children and young people to play and also provide advisory or developmental support for groups and their playworkers.

To qualify for funding, applicants are required to be constituted organisations with policies and operating procedures in place, appropriate for working with children and young people. These include the basic requirements of The Children Act, Health and Safety legislation, Yor-OK, the National Daycare Standards (OFSTED monitored) or other standard relevant to their discipline.

Organisations are also asked to meet or be working towards the 9 Better Play Objectives, which are outlined in York's Policy for Play, "Taking Play Forward", which was recently reviewed and approved by the Executive Member Advisory Panel for Children's Services in January 2007. The Better Play Objectives, which adopts the National Best Play Standards, provides a framework through which groups can review their play provision in relation to the experiences of children and young people who use them.

### **The Better Play Grants will work to the recommendations and principles outlined in the Taking Play Forward, York's policy for play:**

- the need for strategic support for Taking Play Forward;
- support opportunities for risky and adventure play across the City;
- to promote quality, inclusive play at all formal and informal play settings;
- to utilise the results of consultation with children and young people to inform service development;
- the celebration of good play practices;
- using Better Play objectives as a framework for evaluating play opportunities;
- to encourage the play sector to sign up to the values of Taking Play Forward including a visible statement displayed in each setting;
- the identification of consistent funding priorities for play and play development;
- the use of Taking Play Forward to inform and influence all aspects of play, leisure and culture city wide;
- the development of local play resources for training, adventure and equipment;
- a City wide commitment to include play, leisure and culture matters seek out, support and promote relevant training opportunities for the play sector.

**NB:** BPG monies will only be used in conjunction with EIF monies to further the sub-objectives:

- 1.3 Promoting opportunities for children to engage in positive challenging play and activities.
- 4 Support the inclusion of vulnerable children in universal services