

**Notice of a public meeting of  
Decision Session - Economic Development and Community  
Engagement (Deputy Leader)**

**To:** Councillor Aspden

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 May 2016

**Time:** Upon the conclusion of the Learning & Culture Policy and Scrutiny Committee (Pre Decision Calling In) Meeting but no sooner than **6.00pm**

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

**AGENDA**

**Notice to Members - Calling In:**

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

**4:00pm on Thursday 26 May 2016** if an item is called in *after* a decision has been taken.

\*With the exception of matters that have been subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee. Written representations in respect of item on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm on Friday 20 May 2016**.

**Note:**

This decision making session has been convened to take place immediately upon the conclusion of the preceding pre-decision Call-In meeting to enable the Executive Member to consider their views and make a decision on the Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance. Under normal circumstances, this session will take place in the same meeting room as the preceding meeting.

## **1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

## **2. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm** on **Monday 23 May 2016**.

Members of the public may register to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the Executive Member's remit.

### **Filming or Recording Meetings**

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officers (whose contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at

[https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6453/protocol\\_for\\_webcasting\\_filming\\_and\\_recording\\_council\\_meetingspdf](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6453/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_council_meetingspdf)

## **3. Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment (Pages 1 - 36) and Maintenance**

This report sets out an update to the city's play policy together with specific proposals for the improvement of playgrounds.

## **4. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

## Democracy Officers:

Name: Louise Cook/Catherine Clarke (job-share)

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(When emailing please send to both email addresses)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officers responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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**Decision Session – Executive Member for  
Economic Development and Community  
Engagement (Deputy Leader)**

24 May 2016

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance**

**Summary**

1. This report sets out an update to the city's play policy together with specific proposals for the improvement of playgrounds.

**Recommendations**

2. The Executive Member is asked to agree:
  - a) The updated play policy in order to provide a clear steer to direct resources for the development of future play opportunities
  - b) The criteria for the release of the Council's capital programme for playground improvement
  - c) The allocation of £30k of the capital funding as match funding for the Rowntree Park Skatepark scheme
  - d) The proposed new playground inspection regime which reflects best practice and local experience

Reason: To ensure that the Council's approach to play remains up to date and resources are used to the best effect

**Background**

3. In 2002, the Council formally launched the 'Taking Play Forward' play policy, a collective vision for play in the city. The policy document was again updated in 2007, 2010 and 2013. The latest version of the policy recognises the importance of play within communities with a commitment to invest. With this in mind the policy provides a clear focus to respond in a targeted way and to direct funding to identified need. In addition, the policy outlines a strategic approach which recognises that play opportunities should

be developed taking into consideration the importance of community involvement and reflecting best practice.

### **Progress since the last review**

4. Play successes since 2013 include:
  - Working in collaboration with community groups to develop play opportunities at a neighbourhood level, including the following play areas: Aaron Place, Cornlands Road, Grange Lane and Clarence Gardens
  - Working with local volunteers to complete phase 2 of the Rawcliffe Country Park Bike Track and to start on phase 3
  - Through the Better Play Grants (2013-2016) to distribute up to £87k per year of funding directly to the play sector in York to improve the quality of play experiences and to help support voluntary and community sector groups
  - Working in partnership with voluntary sector organisations to celebrate National Play Day on an annual basis
  - Securing £120k of external funding to upgrade Rowntree Park Skate Park facilities: work to commence later this year with the replacement of the worn out metal ramps with new concrete structures, and installation of new boundary fencing. To complete the work £30k is requested towards the cost from the capital programme as match for the external funding

### **Consultation and policy development**

5. The 2016 play policy reflects a number of key messages from prominent strategies. It also includes feedback from children and young people from across the city gathered as part of the consultation process to develop the 2016–2019 Children and Young People’s plan. These key messages highlight the need for play and its far reaching impact. They will be considered alongside the 5 Key Principles contained within the ‘Taking Play Forward’ policy when developing future play opportunities.
6. The key messages:
  - Health and well-being and play: The Chief Medical Officer recommends that: “All children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day. Through promoting the values and benefits of active play we will improve health outcomes for our children and young people.”

- City of York Child Poverty Strategy 2011–2020: Priorities in the plan include ensuring that all children and young people and communities have access to and are involved in the development of local, safe and freely available quality play experiences that are within easy walking distance.
- Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-2019: Involving children and young people and hearing their voice is a well established part of how York works to deliver the best possible outcomes for families.
- The annual “Review of Voice”, completed in April 2015, brings together key messages from young people gathered through one-to-one work, participation groups, surveys and consultations. These include:
  - More places to hang out with friends
  - Cheaper access to things like cinemas, bowling alleys and gyms for children and young people
  - More activities aimed at young people who identify as LGBT
  - More support for disabled young people to be social (carers are not always available to support them to go out in an evening or see friends)

### **The ‘Taking Play Forward’ policy 2016**

7. The 2016 Taking Play Forward policy (Annex 1) takes a more localised approach to the development of play and states that play in the city should be progressed based on 5 key principles which build on the priorities established in the 2013 policy. These will underpin identifying the need to develop play opportunities through to the implementation and delivery of play opportunities within the city.
8. **The 5 Key Principles:** Play opportunities will:
  - Meet a clearly identified need
  - Be developed through inclusive involvement and participation that empowers and encourages the community to take a lead
  - Be based on the right of the child to access inclusive, quality and locally based play opportunities
  - Promote and recognise the benefits of play and its impact on health and development of the child
  - Be reflective of best practice

### **Investing in play opportunities**

9. Within the Council's capital programme for 2017/18 there is £295k for play area improvements. This money is available to be spent on play areas that are either in the Council, Town or Parish Council control. It is proposed that its use should be guided by the 5 Key Principles from The Taking Play Forward Policy 2016-19, as outlined in paragraph 8, which will form the funding criteria for allocation of the Council's capital programme for playground improvement schemes.
10. It is proposed that the summer edition of Shine will launch an engagement process inviting suggestions from children and young people, parents and carers in York to identify potential capital projects. (Money cannot be used for revenue purposes). In addition to the launch of the capital programme through Shine, an application form and supporting information will be made available for communities, groups and organisations to apply to the fund.
11. If money is sought to create a new play area, this would only be considered if the location has been identified as being deficient in play provision in Open Space and Green Infrastructure Final Report September 2014.
12. It is proposed that completed applications be considered, alongside feedback received from children and young people through the Shine consultation, by a multi-agency panel consisting of representatives from the Council, parish councils, play organisations and young people's forums. This panel will recommend a final list of schemes to the Executive Member for formal approval.
13. To ensure that money is allocated to those play areas with most need it is proposed that play areas that have been receipt of Playbuilder, or significant lottery or section 106 funds since 2008 will not be eligible for consideration. A list of known ineligible sites is detailed in Annex 2; others may be identified through the short-listing process.

### **Timetable for the process**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
Launch of the scheme	June 2016
Closing date	End of August 2016
Shortlisting	By end September 2016



Formal approval by Executive Member	October 2016
Scheme development and implementation	October 2016 onwards

14. Officers from Communities and Equalities and Public Realm will work with groups to develop and implement schemes where help is requested, for example, by supporting groups to top up the money through grant applications. If the investment is to be on a City of York Council site officers will take the lead in procuring the investment.

### **Proposed new playground inspection standards**

15. To ensure that council managed play areas remain safe and well cared for, it is proposed that all equipped play areas have a combination of visual and physical inspection at least fortnightly undertaken by a qualified inspector, the current standard being Registered Play International Inspector.
16. Currently all 51 play areas receive a weekly visit by the Council's Registered Play International Inspector irrespective of how much equipment is present, the complexity of the units, and evidence of wear and tear or misuse. As well as an inspection of equipment, time is also spent on maintenance including replacing damaged seats and worn chains, oiling bearings and repairing timber work. It is proposed that from now on a more targeted inspection regime is adopted based on:
- The extent and complexity of the equipment
  - History of use e.g. wear and tear, erosion
  - History of misuse e.g. damage to equipment, graffiti, litter
17. Sites will be categorised as follows:
- Category A sites - these are sites with high use and will be inspected weekly. Examples include Acomb Green, Rowntree Park, Cemetery Road
  - Category B sites – these are sites with lower use and will be inspected fortnightly. Examples include Rufforth, Littlethorpe Strensall, Laburnum Farm Hessay, and Forge Close Huntington.
18. Most sites will fall into Category A; however, the proposed changes will free up time to be spent on improved maintenance and will create capacity to inspect new sites (at least three more play areas are likely to be transferred to the Council over the coming years).

19. A comparison exercise has been undertaken with other authorities in the region. Whilst this reveals that there is no common approach or standard in operation it is clear that the approach set out in paragraph 17 will be one of the most frequent and comprehensive in the region. Any emergency issues that occur between inspections will continue to be dealt with through the Rapid Response Team as at present.

### **Options**

20. The principal options open to the Executive Member are to:
- Suggest any amendments to the new play policy
  - Propose any amendments to the suggested criteria for allocation of the Council's capital programme for playground improvement

### **Analysis**

21. The 'Taking Play Forward' document provides a clear steer for the development of play in the city and enables the authority to develop play opportunities against defined principles to ensure that limited resources are maximised and clearly targeted to areas of identified need.

### **Council Plan**

22. The 'Taking Play Forward' policy contributes to the following Council Plan priorities:
- All York's residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods
  - Delivering frontline services for residents is the priority
  - All children and adults are listened to, and their opinions considered
  - Every child has the opportunity to get the best possible start in life
  - Residents are encouraged and supported to live healthily
  - Focus on the delivery of frontline services for residents and the protection of community facilities.
  - Focus on cost and efficiency to make the right decisions in a challenging financial environment.

## Implications

23. **Financial:** The budget was £295k, made up of £200k Council capital funding and £95k external funding dependent on anticipated S106 receipts; however, £120k of external funding has already been committed and therefore there is potential for the budget to be increased to £415k.
24. **Equalities:** The Taking Play Forward policy advocates and promotes inclusive practice throughout the document.
25. **Crime and Disorder:** The development of future schemes will take into consideration the Taking Play Forwards 5 key principles ensuring that there is clear need and involvement from the local community, thus promoting and enabling local ownership. Scheme are required to be reflective of best practice, and will take advice from key guidance documents including Play England's, Design for Play 2008, Better Places to Play through Planning 2009 and Secured by Design.
26. There are no **Human Resources, Legal, Information Technology, Property** or **Other** implications.

## Risk Management

27. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified associated with the proposals contained in this report are those which could lead to the inability to meet business objectives and to deliver services, leading to damage to the Council's reputation and failure to meet stakeholders' expectations. The level of risk is assessed as "Low". This is acceptable but means that regular monitoring is required of the operation of the new arrangements.

## Contact Details

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Chief Officer responsible:</b>		
Mary Bailey, Head of Communities and Equalities	Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and the Public Realm)		
Dave Meigh Operations Manager – Public Realm	<b>Report Approved</b>	✓	<b>Date</b> 13 May 2016
<b>Specialist Implications Officers:</b>			

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	✓
<b>For further information please contact the author of the report</b>		

**Annexes**

- 1: Taking Play Forward Policy
- 2: Ineligible Sites
- 3: Community Impact Assessment

**Abbreviations:**

LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

# Taking Play Forward 2016-2019



DRAFT

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## **Foreword**

Within our parks and open spaces in York we are lucky to have a wide range of play provision, which our children and young people have enjoyed for generations. In 2002, the city adopted a play policy and this latest version recognises the continued importance of play in the healthy development of our children.

We are committed to supporting excellent play provision across the city and promoting the access and availability of play to all children and young people. Our 2016 policy takes a more localised approach to the development of play. It aims to empower and encourage communities to help ensure all children are able to access quality and locally based play opportunities.

**Cllr Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader of City of York Council and Executive Member for Community Engagement (including Play)**

## **Introduction**

Taking Play Forward was first written in 2002 and has been refreshed a number of times and now again in 2016. Over the years the play policy has become increasingly focused on developing play at a neighbourhood and community level.

City of York Council has a longstanding commitment to support the development of play provision across the city. National and local initiatives have contributed to locally-developed schemes which have helped inform the policy through each version. We are continually reviewing how, as a local authority, we can enable communities to develop their opportunities for play in the best way possible to ensure that play is embedded and sustainable with communities.

## **York's Play Policy**

Taking Play Forward is the name for the ever-evolving collective vision and strategy for play in York. It provides a framework and a focus to direct, respond to, and enable the development of play and to identify relevant support and resources. The policy outlines a strategic approach which recognises that play opportunities should be developed where there is a need, taking into consideration the importance of community involvement and being reflective of best practice. Taking Play Forward aims to:

- Clarify the Council's commitment to supporting the development of play. The play policy is a working tool to enable the development of children's play environments.
- Commit to supporting high-quality play experiences for all children and young people across the City of York.
- Illustrate how the Council will enable communities to develop their play provision and adopt best practice.

## **York's Mission Statement on Play**

- We will enable our communities to provide the best possible play opportunities, activities, events and environments, which are safe, appropriate, easy to access, stimulating and above all fun!
- We want more people to understand the value and benefits of play, not only as a worthwhile activity, but as an essential part of every child's development.
- We will respect the right of children to play freely and safely on their own or in their interactions with other children, adults and carers. In each context, we must be responsive to choice, suitability and accessibility.



## **The 9 Better Play Objectives:**

Taking Play Forward is based on the 9 Better Play Objectives for York, which provide a framework for developing and monitoring the quality of play. They draw upon the national better play criteria (see Annex x).

**Objective 1:** The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it

**Objective 2:** The provision recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need

**Objective 3:** The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm

**Objective 4:** The provision maximises the range of play opportunities

**Objective 5:** The provision fosters independence and self-esteem

**Objective 6:** The provision fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction

**Objective 7:** The provision fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn

**Objective 8:** The provision meets the necessary legislative requirements

**Objective 9:** The organisation involves users in decision making and consultation

Through the Better Play Objectives we aim to:

- Raise the standards of play provision
- Make sure children and young people know and exercise their rights to play, culture, rest and leisure

- Encourage genuine communication and interactions between children and young people, individuals and services with interests in play
- Create flexibility in the use of play resources
- Identify accessible criteria for funding and developing play opportunities
- Increase public recognition of the importance of play and enable relevant legislative requirements to be met
- Better manage play environments and increase recognition of the complex resources needed to provide stimulating children's play opportunities. (This is as important in settings such as schools as it is in open natural play spaces)

### **York's Play Successes Since 2013**

- The Council has worked collaboratively with community groups and volunteers to develop and improve play opportunities at a neighbourhood level, including Aaron Place, Cornlands Road, Grange Lane, Clarence Gardens and phase 2 of the Rawcliffe County Park Bike Track
- Through the Better Play Grants (2013-2016) the Council has distributed up to £87K per year worth of funding to voluntary and community play sector organisations in York to improve the quality of play experiences and help support groups.
- The city celebrates National Play Day annually hosted by voluntary sector organisations
- Secured £120k worth of funding to upgrade Rowntree Park Skate Park facilities – work to commence 2016

## **Evidence for the Development of the Policy**

### **Key Messages**

It is recognised that play affects, influences and benefits many other agendas. Below are key messages from a number of prominent strategies that highlight the need for play and its far reaching impact.

#### **Health, Well Being and Play**

The Chief Medical Officer recommends that: All children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day. This improves cardiovascular health, maintains a healthy weight, improves bone health, improves self confidence and develops new social skills. Through promoting the values and benefits of active play we will improve health outcomes for our children and young people.

#### **City of York Child Poverty Strategy 2011 – 2020**

Priorities in the plan include – Ensure all children and young people have access to local, safe and freely available quality play experiences that are within easy walking distance, and that communities are involved in the development of this equipment.

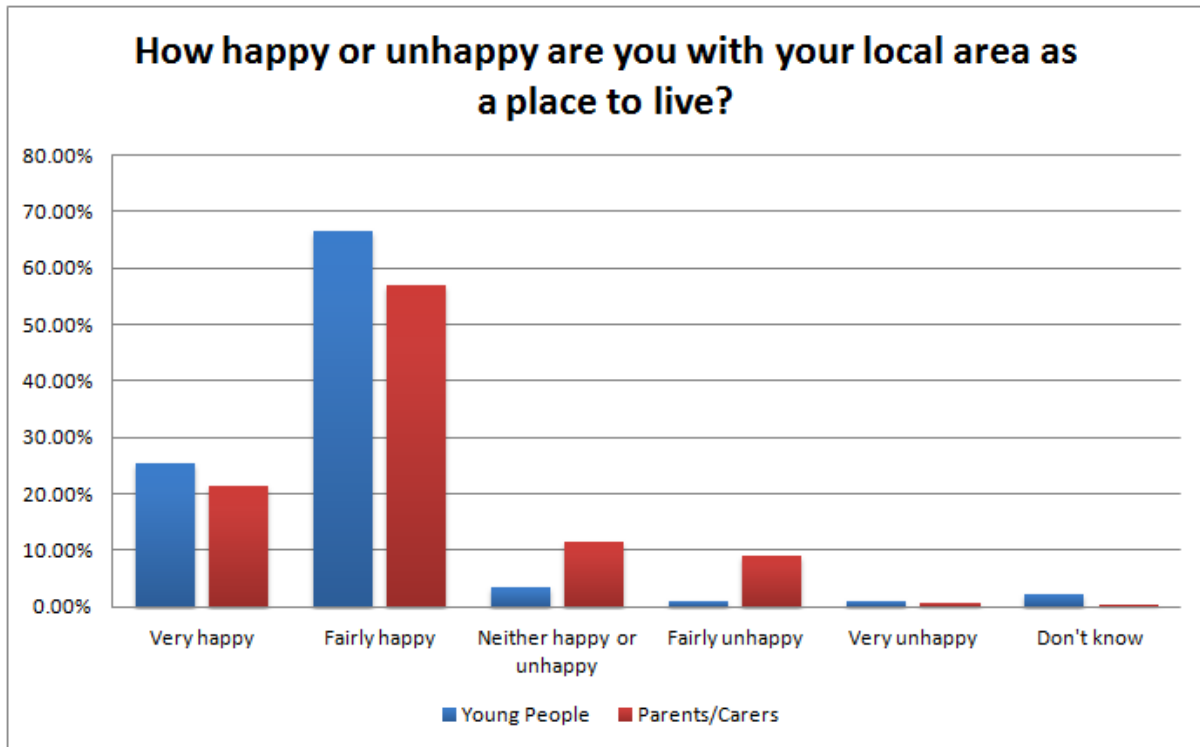
#### **Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-2019**

Involving children and young people and hearing their voice is a well-established part of how York works to deliver the best possible outcomes for families. The voices of children, young people, families and practitioners have played a pivotal role in the development of the new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP).

The annual “Review of Voice”, completed in April 2015, brings together key messages from young people gathered through one-to-one work, participation groups, surveys and consultations. This knowledge of existing messages has formed a critical role in shaping the priorities for the new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP).

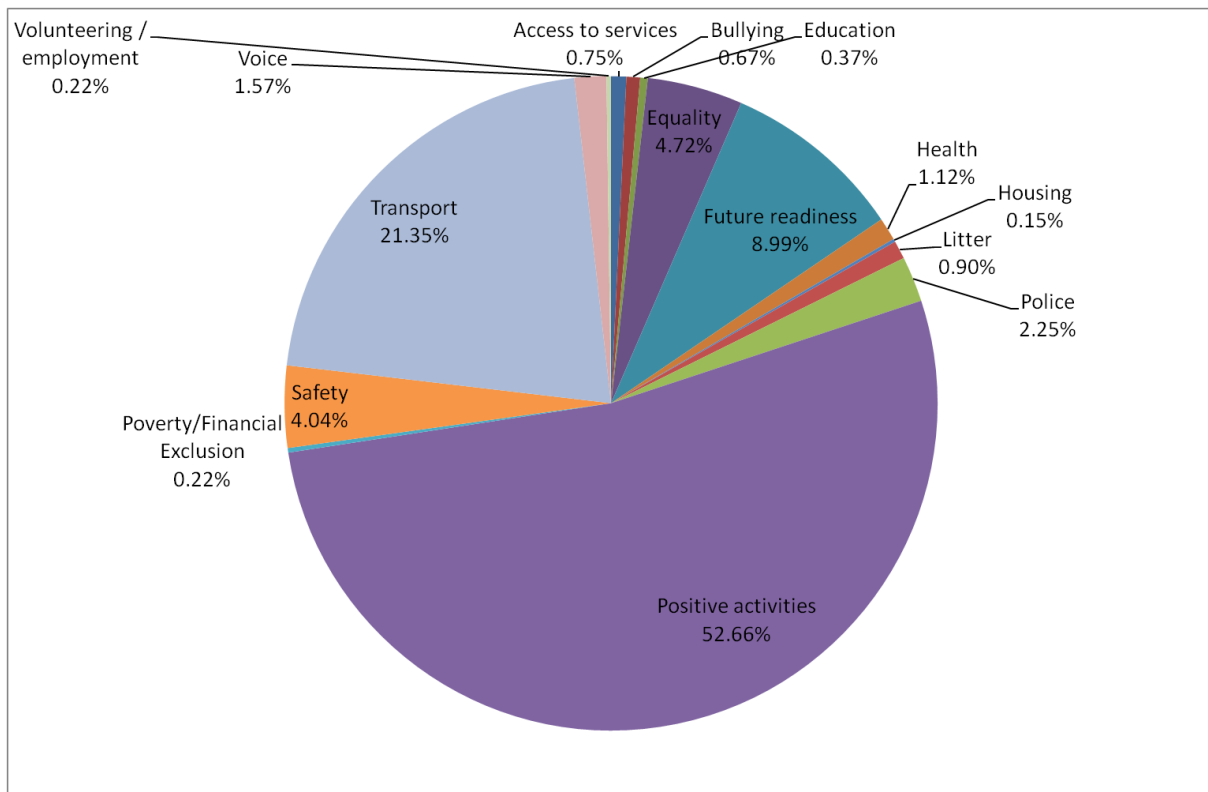
The existing messages taken from the “Review of Voice” represent messages from thousands of children and young people. The direct consultation work engaged around 200 further young people, 400 parents and 184 practitioners and groups.

We can see from the direct consultation work that took place to inform the development of the new CYPP that generally people feel positively about York as a place for children and young people to live. The figure below shows how happy children and young people and parents or carers are with their local area.



There are many comments from children, young people, parents and carers which paint a positive picture of York as a safe and happy place to live.

Children and young people broadly endorsed the priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (early help, narrowing gaps, health and well-being, whole family work). In addition to these core priorities children and young people also identified a sizeable set of additional priorities. These represent a diverse range of priority areas which are summarised in the chart below.

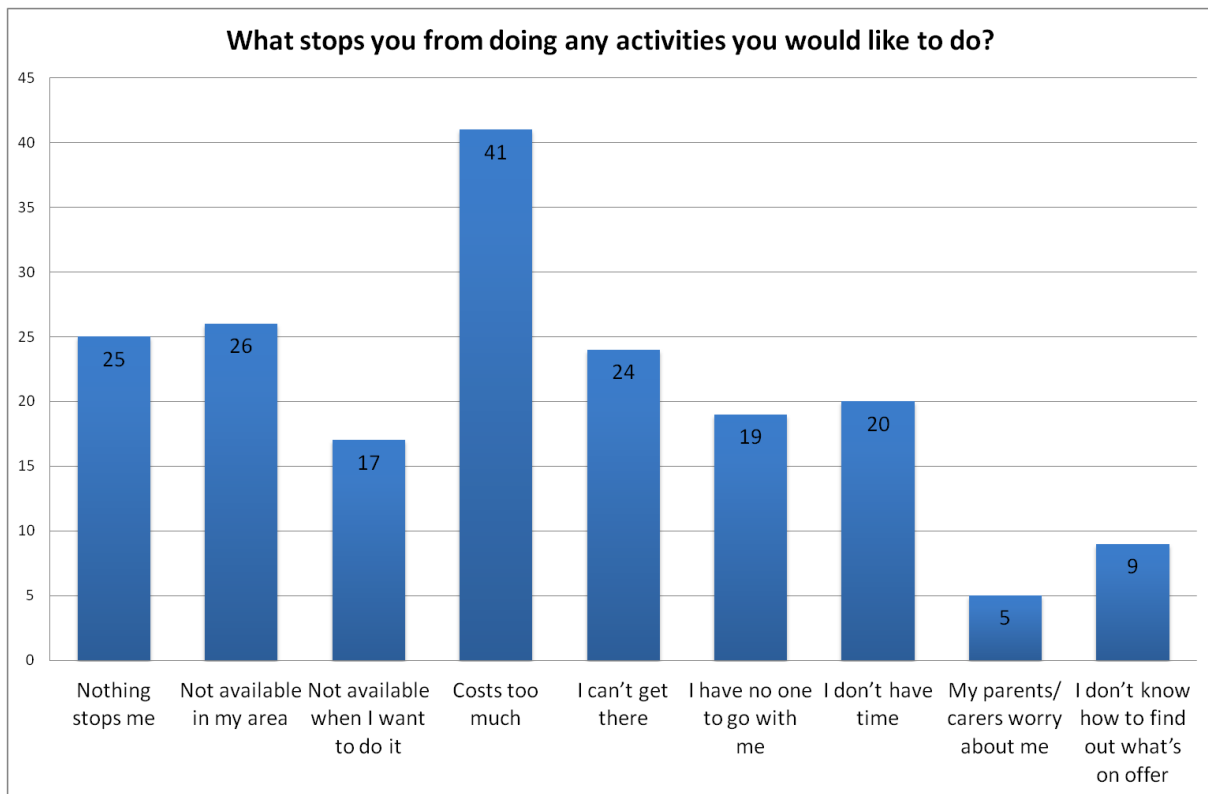


It can be seen that a significant number of the comments from focus groups related to positive activities. A broad range of feedback from children and young people is reflected under this category. For example:

- More places to hang out with friends.
- Cheaper access to things like cinemas, bowling alleys and gyms for children and young people.
- More activities aimed at young people who identify as LGBT.
- More support for disabled young people to be social. For example carers not available to support them to go out in an evening or see friends.

An issue which was closely related to positive activities was transport. The main theme emerging under this category was the cost of transport to get around York and the surrounding villages. This was particularly highlighted as an issue where children and young people wanted to access activities outside of their local area.

From the online consultation the main barriers identified to accessing positive activities were cost, availability in the local area or transport costs. The barriers to activities identified by young people are shown in the chart below.



The feedback gathered by young people who completed the online consultation generally echoed messages given through the focus groups. The table below shows in descending order what children and young people feel would **make their life better**.

What would help make your life better	Count
More help to plan for my future	36
More places where I can go to spend time with my friends	32
More ways I can volunteer or help people	23
More organised activities and things to do	21
Less bullying	20
More chance to have a say in how things are run at school or in the local area	20
More interesting school lessons	16
Someone I can always talk to	11
More help to do better at school	11
More advice about being healthy	6
More help to feel safer at school and in the local area	5

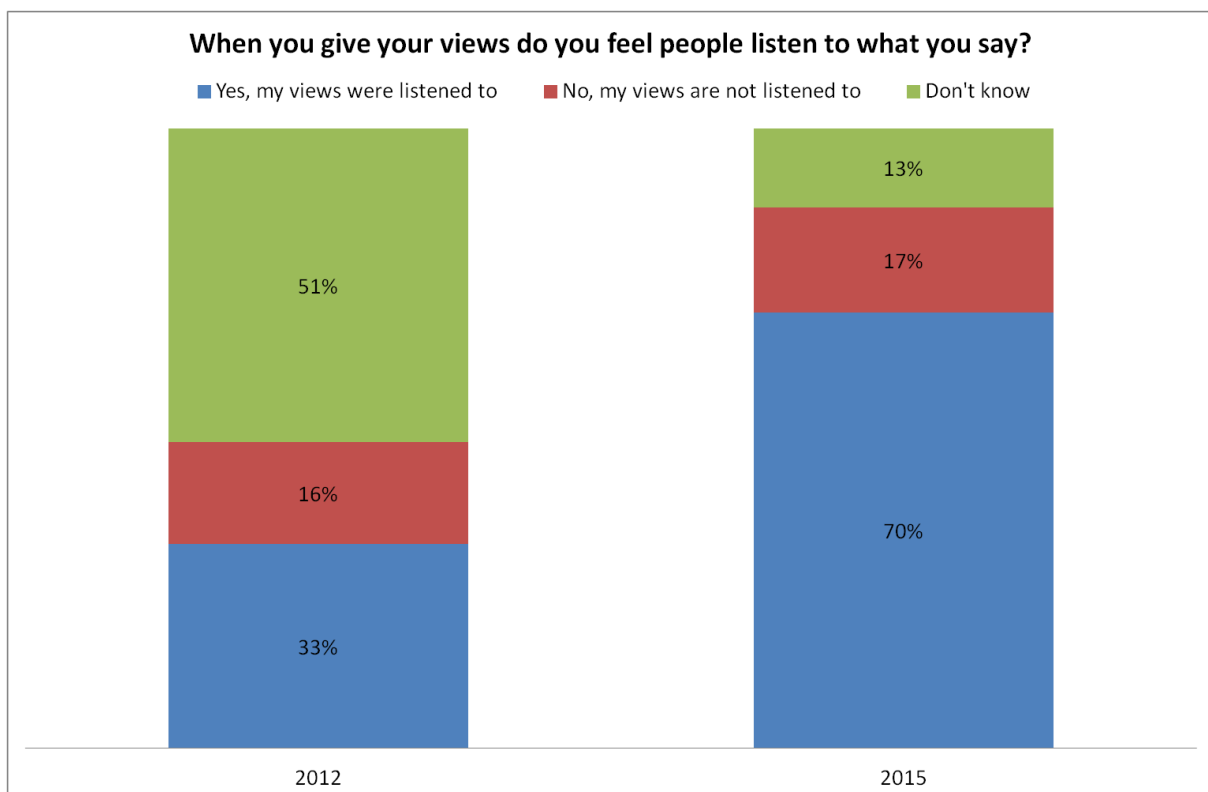
What would help make your life better	Count
Something else	5
More support to attend activities	3
None of these	3
Don't know	2

Key differences are that the online respondents placed a greater priority on planning for the future and ways to volunteer than those in focus groups.

## Having a Voice

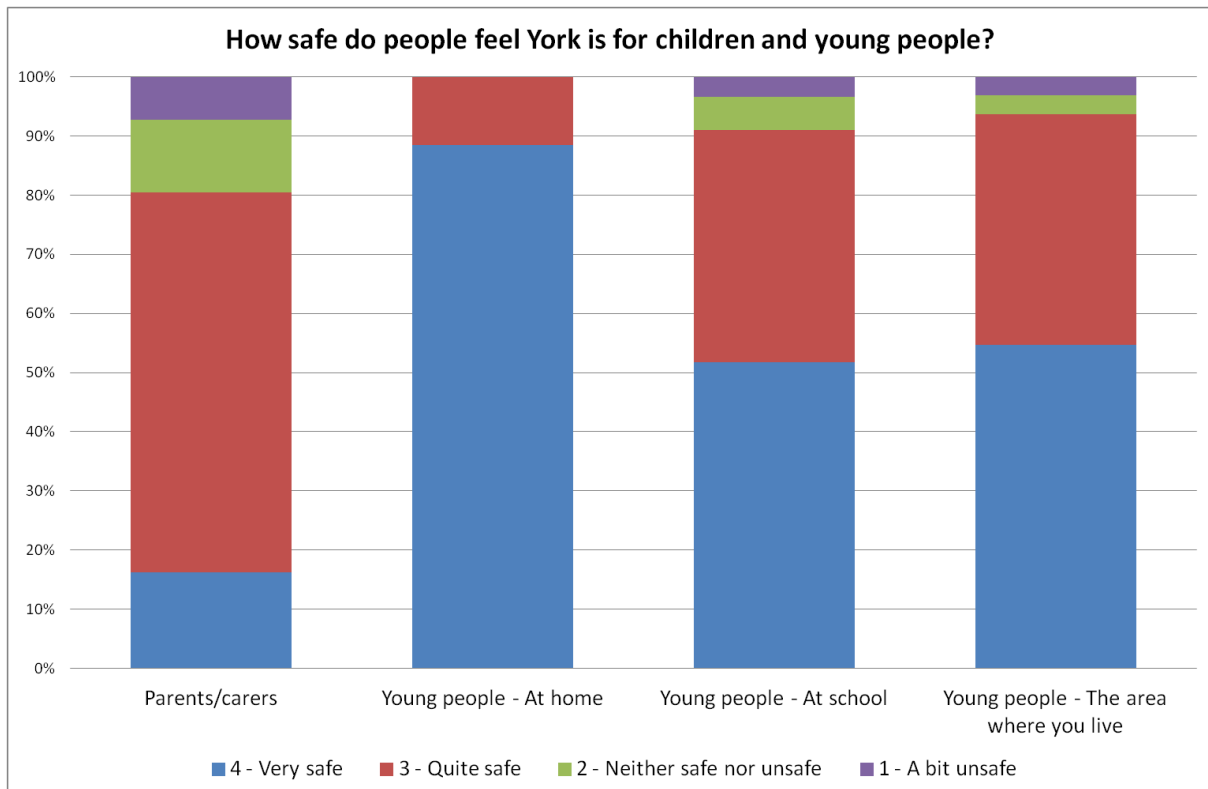
A high priority for all partners in recent years has been on developing the quality and breadth of opportunities for children and young people to have a voice and be involved in service design and delivery.

Encouragingly some clear progress is shown when asking children and young people if they feel their views have been listened to. This is shown in the chart below comparing responses in 2012 to 2015.



The proportion feeling their views were not listened to has remained fairly static (16% in 2012 and 17% in 2015). However the percentage who feel their views have been listened to has increased significantly (33% in 2015 to 70%) now.

Generally young people, parents and carers feel that York is a safe place and a good place to live and grow up. This general sense of feeling safe is shown in the chart below.



This is generally encouraging and reflects on feedback gathered through existing surveys undertaken with children and young people. For example the table below is taken from the 2014 Stand Up For Us survey where children and young people were also asked about how safe they felt in different locations.

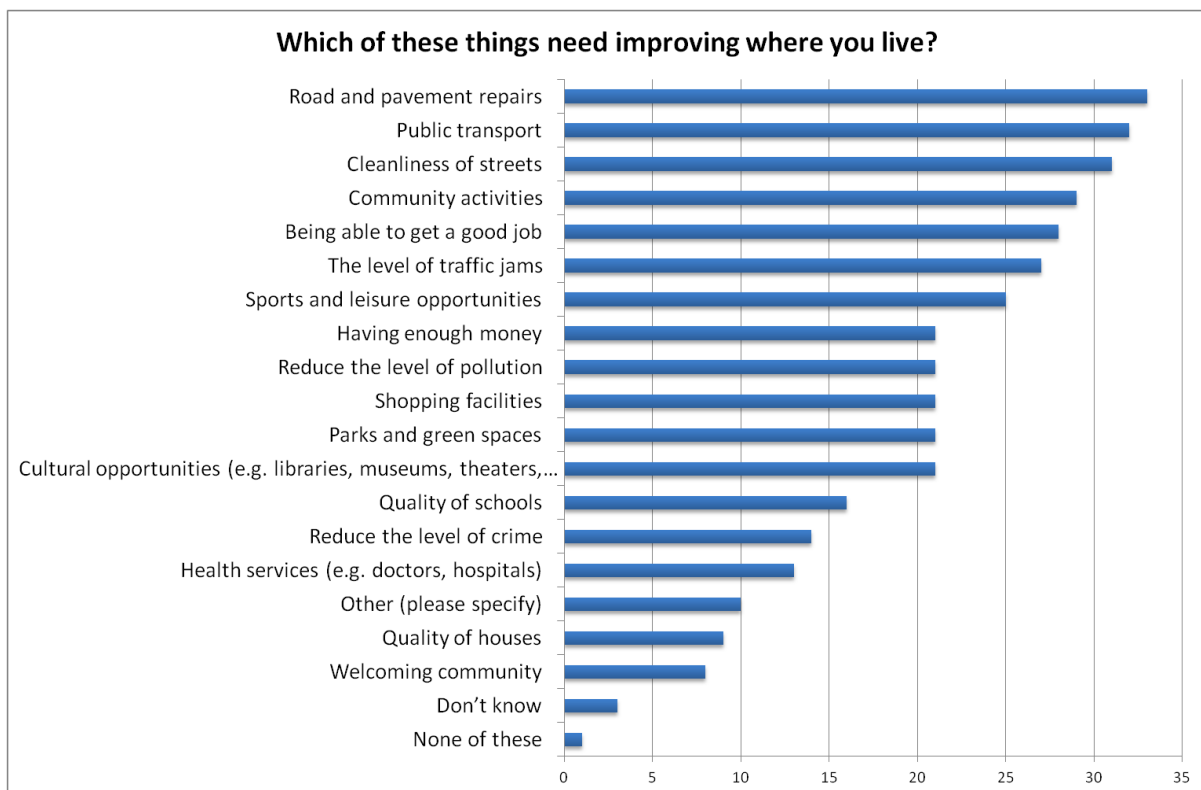
	School building	On school grounds	With other pupils	On public transport	With adults in school	In the local community
<b>Primary</b>	93.5%	92.5%	94.0%	93.6%	94.9%	-
<b>Secondary</b>	94.4%	94.3%	96.3%	87.8%	-	95.5%



## Priorities

The consultation showed a huge range of additional areas that matter to children, young people and families. Examples include:

- Many children and young people wanted improvements to the cleanliness and condition of roads and pavements in their local area.
- Transport around the city was also highlighted as an issue. Particularly traffic and the cost of transport to access activities or services not available in the local area. This is demonstrated by the chart below which shows what things children and young people would most like to see improved in their local area.



These key messages have helped shape the 2016 Children and Young People's Plan which sets out 4 priority areas.

### Priority 1 – Early Help

Early help has been a priority for the YorOK Board since its inception in 2003, and at the core of all our children and young people's plans. The principle of intervening early to prevent problems emerging at a later

date is widely accepted; during the consultation, it was strongly endorsed by families and by practitioners. Children, young people, parents and carers said that they valued strong and supportive communities and access to activities and services.

### **Priority 2 – Emotional and Mental Health**

National estimates suggest that one in ten children needs support or treatment for mental health problems ranging from short spells of depression or anxiety through to severe and persistent conditions that can isolate, disrupt and frighten those who experience them. Mental health problems in young people can result in lower educational attainment and are strongly associated with behaviours that pose a risk to their general health, such as smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and risky sexual behaviour.

### **Priority 3 – Narrowing Gaps in Outcomes**

York is a relatively prosperous city: most children and young people are healthy and achieve well in their education. However, this is not the case for all of our communities, particularly those on low incomes where the evidence suggests that there is a risk of multiple poor outcomes. We also know that early gaps in speech, language and educational achievement tend to widen during a young person's childhood. It therefore remains a key priority for us to address gaps in educational achievement and in health, working across the YorOK partnership to this end.

Children and young people confirm that health and educational achievement are important to them. During the consultation, many talked about the importance of active lifestyles and healthy eating. Others mentioned the importance of friendships, and the need for self-esteem.

### **Priority 4 – Priority Groups**

Our final priority area is different from the preceding three in that what we want to do is shine a spotlight on five specific groups of children and young people. This would arguably not be necessary if we were to achieve every outcome outlined in the previous sections; however, experience suggests that the following groups of children and young people have particular needs that may require targeted support. Many of

the groups below are the subject of a separate, focused strategy; the job of this plan is not to duplicate that, but simply to ensure that the needs of these groups remain prominent in the minds of the YorOK partners, and that the actions to support them are coherent.

## **The Way Forward: Developing Play in the Community**

Taking account of the evidence presented above it is intended that the 2016-19 policy takes a more localised approach to supporting the development of play in the city and that ideas for projects should be progressed based upon 5 key principles, building on the priorities from the 2013 policy, which will form the basis for both identifying the need to develop play, right through to the implementation and delivery of the project.

### **The 5 Key Principles**

Play provision should:

1. Meet a clearly identified need
2. Be developed through inclusive involvement and participation that empowers and encourages the community to take a lead
3. Be based on the right of the child to access inclusive, quality and locally-based play opportunities
4. Promote and recognise the benefits of play and its impact on health and development of the child
5. Be reflective of best practice

### **Projects**

To aid the development play projects it is recommended that the following practical considerations are taken account of alongside the 5 key principles:

- Resources: Is the necessary funding for staffing, buildings, equipment etc. in place to enable the project to happen?

- Land ownership: Are permissions are in place to let the project take place?
- Ongoing costs: Is the project sustainable in the long- term e.g. in terms of its maintenance and staffing costs?
- Need: Do relevant local, regional and national strategies and research evidence the need for the project?
- Local demographics: Again, do these demonstrate current and ongoing need?
- Support from partner organisations, groups and the wider community: Is the necessary support in place to ensure that the project is sustainable?
- Routes to play: Can the project be easily accessed through, for example, footpath, cycle paths, roads with crossing points?
- Monitoring: Are arrangements in place to ensure that the views of children and young people, parents/carers, the community and other stakeholders are visible and used to inform further development and help the project to develop and continue?

### **Equipped Play Areas**

There are currently at least 76 equipped play areas in York. These are managed by a variety of organisations including the City of York Council, local Parish and Town Councils, Housing Trusts and developers.

The Council will support the improvement and ongoing care of the city's play areas through advice, supporting grant applications and provision of funding, including the application of section 106 payments. Where improvements are needed those sites with the most need will be prioritised for attention. Factors such as usage, previous investment and resident engagement will be taken into account when establish a priory of need.

To ensure that Council-managed play areas remain safe and well cared for, all equipped play areas will be inspected at least fortnightly by a National Playing Fields Association Inspecting Playgrounds qualified assessor. Sites with high use e.g. Rowntree Park will be inspected

weekly. The assessor not only checks for safety issues but also carries both routine and emergency repairs and maintenance.

## **Street Play**

*“Playing out on a street near their homes is vital to children’s health and wellbeing.”* (Play England).

City of York Council is committed to supporting communities in developing street play opportunities where there is sufficient need and neighbourhood will to see opportunities created. We are committed to challenging traffic dangers and parent’s confidence as barriers to children playing out. Support and guidance is available for any community or group in the city who wish to work towards creating fun, safe spaces and opportunities for play within the urban environment.

## **Play Settings**

There are 52 staffed Out of School Club settings in York. These settings work to support the Taking Play Forward ethos and are registered with Ofsted, who regulate the quality of provision by ensuring compliance with regulations to safeguard and support children's welfare. The Council support these providers to maintain and improve the quality of their provision through a range of support that is tailored to their level of need. This may include advisory visits, out of school network meetings, advice and support to enable disabled children and young people to access the provision, access to training, and advertising through the Shine programme.

## **Playwork**

The council’s Workforce Development Unit produces an annual Early Years and Out of school club training offer. This supports the staff in settings to become capable, confident and competent professional practitioners, which is critical in ensuring that high quality provision is available to children and young people within York. A range of cross-sector courses are offered and at least one Playwork specific training course is offered per year to the workforce. This training is accessible to all playworkers working across the city, not just those in Ofsted regulated provision. The Council also has a role in signposting playworkers to

training providers who are able to offer more formal Playwork qualifications at level 2, 3 and 4.

### **Raising the Quality of Play Opportunities at a Neighbourhood Level**

To aid the development of play, the Council is also there to support and signpost play organisations, communities and individuals in the following ways to help support the development of play opportunities:

- Funding advice/signposting
- Consultation methods
- Current data and ward profile information
- Inclusivity advice
- Health and safety
- Links to transport and planning information
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Best practice and learning from other projects

## **Useful Resources**

### **General:**

Yor-OK is York's portal for information and resources for anyone working with children and young people, parents and young people themselves. Here you will find York's Children and Young People's Plan and the Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2020. <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk>

Play England's vision is for England to be a country where everybody can fully enjoy their right to play throughout their childhood and teenage years. The website provides resources and information on play in schools, street play, parks and open spaces and playwork. <http://www.playengland.org.uk>

National Play Day is the national day for play, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. <http://www.playday.org.uk>

Playing Out provides ideas, advice and support to residents wanting to bring about change in their street or neighbourhood. <http://playingout.net>

### **For Out-of-School Providers:**

Information to support quality improvement of Ofsted registered Out of school provision in York - <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Childcare%20Strategy/out-of-school-clubs.htm>

The Out of School Alliance (OOSA) provides information and support to individuals and organisations setting up and running out of school clubs, including breakfast clubs, after school clubs, holiday clubs and play schemes. [www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/](http://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/)

### **Safeguarding:**

The City of York's Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) is a statutory inter-agency forum for agreeing how different services co-operate to protect

children in York. We seek to ensure that the children of York are protected from all forms of abuse and neglect by ensuring that everybody working with children works effectively together.

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk>



**Play Areas with Major Investment Since 2008**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Date of investment</b>
Acomb	Viking Road	Playbuilder	2009/10
Bishopthorpe	Keeble Park	Playbuilder	2009/10
Clifton	Ashton Avenue	Playbuilder	2009/10
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	Leeside	Lottery	2008/09
Guildhall	Clarence Gardens	106	2015
Haxby and Wigginton	Mancroft (Haxby)	Playbuilder	2010/11
Heworth	Barfield Road	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Bell Farm Adventure Playground	Playbuilder	2010/11
	Arran Place	Housing Revenue Account and 106	2014
Heworth Without	Stray Road	Playbuilder	2010/11
Holgate	Balfour Street (Back Park)	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Sowerby Road	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Garnett Terrace	Playbuilder	2010/11
Hull Road	Hull Road Park - main	Playbuilder	2010/11
	Hull Road Park – small	Housing Revenue Account	

Huntington and New Earswick	Orchard Park	Playbuilder	2009/10
Rural York West	Brecksfield (Skelton)	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Copmanthorpe Recreation Ground	Playbuilder	2010/11
Osbaldwick and Dunnington	Dunnington Recreation Ground	Big Lottery Fund	2010
Strensall		Playbuilder	2010/11
Westfield	Chesney's Field, (Foxwood Lane)	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Grange Lane	Playbuilder and Yorventure	2010/11
	Acomb Green	Big Lottery Fund	2012
	Cornlands Road	106 and Yorventure	2014
Wheldrake	Naburn	Playbuilder	2009/10
	Elvington	Playbuilder	2009/10
		Playbuilder	

**SECTION 1: CIA SUMMARY**
**Community Impact Assessment: Summary**
**1. Name of service, policy, function or criteria being assessed:**

The Taking Play Forward Play Policy 2016-2019

**2. What are the main objectives or aims of the service/policy/function/criteria?**

Taking Play Forward provides a framework and a focus to direct, respond to, and enable the development of play and to identify relevant support and resources. The policy outlines a strategic approach which recognises that play opportunities should be developed where there is a need, taking into consideration the importance of community involvement and being reflective of best practice.

As a local authority, we continually review how we can enable communities to develop their opportunities for play in the best way possible to ensure that play is embedded and sustainable within communities.

Key themes of the 2016-2019 Play Policy:

- Draws on recent consultation to help provide information that shapes the future development of Play
- Based on evidence and key strategies, the policy is refocused to ensure that the development of play takes a more localised approach
- Introduces a 5 principle approach which tests need, inclusive practice and involvement and participation of local communities

**3. Name and Job Title of person completing assessment:**

Mary Bailey, Head of Communities & Equalities Team

**4. Have any impacts been Identified? (Yes/No)**

Yes

**Community of Identity affected:**

Age, Carers of Older or Disabled People, Disability, Race

**Summary of impact:**

The new policy draws on existing consultation and key documents and promotes further and more localised consultation to help inform the development of play opportunities at a local level. The policy provides a framework to give a clear steer toward good practice and encourage greater involvement of all communities.

**5. Date CIA completed: 12/05/16**

6. Signed off by:

*CD. Croft*

7. I am satisfied that this service/policy/function has been successfully impact assessed.

**Name:** Charlie Croft

**Position:** Assistant Director

**Date:** 13 May, 2016

8. Decision-making body:

Date:

Decision Details:

Send the completed signed off document to [ciasubmission@york.gov.uk](mailto:ciasubmission@york.gov.uk) It will be published on the intranet, as well as on the council website.

Actions arising from the Assessments will be logged on Verto and progress updates will be required

SECTION 2: CIA FORM

Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

Community Impact Assessment Title: The Taking Play Forward Play Policy 2016-2019

What evidence is available to suggest that the proposed service, policy, function or criteria could have a negative (N), positive (P) or no (None) effect on quality of life outcomes? (Refer to guidance for further details)
Can negative impacts be justified? For example: improving community cohesion; complying with other legislation or enforcement duties; taking positive action to address imbalances or under-representation; needing to target a particular community or group e.g. older people. NB. Lack of financial resources alone is NOT justification!

Evidence

- Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-2019: Involving children and young people and hearing their voice is a well established part of how York works to deliver the best possible outcomes for families.
• The annual “Review of Voice”, completed in April 2015, brings together key messages from young people gathered through one-to-one work, participation groups, surveys and consultations.
• The Chief Medical Officer recommends that: “All children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day. Through promoting the values and benefits of active play we will improve health outcomes for our children and young people.”

Annex 3

- City of York Child Poverty Strategy 2011–2020: Priorities in the plan include ensuring that all children and young people and communities have access to and are involved in the development of local, safe and freely available quality play experiences that are within easy walking distance.
- The summer edition of Shine will launch an engagement process inviting suggestions from children and young people, parents and carers in York to identify potential capital projects.

<b>Community of Identity: Age, Carers of Older or Disabled People, Disability, Race</b>				
<b>Evidence</b>		<b>Quality of Life Indicators</b>	<b>Customer Impact (N/P/None)</b>	<b>Staff Impact (N/P/None)</b>
As above		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to services and employment</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Standard of living</li> <li>• Productive and valued activities</li> <li>• Participation, influence and voice</li> </ul>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Positive</b>
<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Can negative impacts be</b>	<b>Reason/Action</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>

	<i>justified?</i>			
<p>(i) We have identified the four communities of interest as being the most likely to be impacted on by this policy. However as the policy is inclusive in its approach we would anticipate there being a positive impact to these communities of interest.</p> <p>(ii) The new policy draws on existing evidence and consultation and promotes further consultation and engagement with local communities to deliver best practice.</p> <p>(iii) The shift to a more localised approach could impact on staff partner organisations in the sense of understand their role to facilitate play opportunities within communities.</p>		<p>(i) The new policy will be actively promoted across communities of interest and be available through a variety of media e.g. online, hard copy translations etc.</p> <p>(ii) This will ensure that future play developments will follow best practice and the 5 key principles outlined in the new policy to ensure positive inclusion of communities through all aspects of play development to ensure sustainable projects.</p> <p>(iii) CYC staff and partner organisations will be made aware of the new policy through internal, strategic groups, networks and newsletters.</p>		

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