



**Notice of meeting of  
Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**To:** Councillors Looker (Chair), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Aspden, Crisp, Douglas, Hogg, Taylor, Waudby and Mr W Schofield

**Date:** Thursday, 10 December 2009

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall

**AGENDA**

**1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

**2. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the committee's remit can do so.

Anyone who wishes to register or who requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting, listed at the foot of this agenda.

The deadline for registering to speak is **5.00pm on Wednesday 9 December 2009.**

**3. York Theatre Royal Service Agreement: (Pages 5 - 14)  
2009/10 Half Year Performance Update**

This report is to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

- 4. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery (Pages 15 - Plan: 2009/10 Half Year Performance Update 34)**  
This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan.
- 5. 2009/10 Second Quarter Monitoring Report - (Pages 35 - Finance and Performance 44)**  
This report analyses the latest performance for 2009/10 and forecasts the outturn position by reference to the service plan, the budget and the performance indicators for all of the services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services.
- 6. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny (Pages 45 - Committee Workplan 2009-2010 52)**  
To consider and agree the Workplan for the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2009/10.
- 7. Update on Implementation of (Pages 53 - Recommendations from Previously Completed Scrutiny Review on the Cultural Quarter 58)**  
This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of recommendations made as a result of the completed Cultural Quarter scrutiny review.
- 8. Review of Casual Play Opportunities - Scoping (Pages 59 - Report 92)**  
This report presents information in support of a proposed review on the available provision of casual play opportunities across the city, and asks Members to agree how they wish to progress this review.
- 9. Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services and Chairs of York@Large and Learning City**  
The Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services and Chairs of York@Large and Learning City will be in attendance to report on forthcoming priorities and to discuss the Committee's Work Plan.

## 10. Urgent Business

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

### Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email [catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk) and [louise.cook@york.gov.uk](mailto:louise.cook@york.gov.uk)

(If contacting by email, please send to both Democracy officers named above).

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officers responsible for servicing this meeting, as listed above.

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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## About City of York Council Meetings

### Would you like to speak at this meeting?

If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

**A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088**

### Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

### Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

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### **Holding the Executive to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

### **Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?**

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

**Learning and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee****Declarations of Interest**

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest.

Councillor Aspden	Member of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) Employee of North Yorkshire County Council Governor at Danesgate Centre, Fulford Cross
Councillor Brooks	Employee of The Manchester College Member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATC)
Councillor D'Agorne	LEA Governor at Fishergate Primary School Employee of York College, Guidance Service
Councillor Douglas	Member of York Opera
Councillor Looker	Governor of Park Grove Primary School Governor of Canon Lee Secondary School Company Secretary, York Theatre Royal Member of York Museum Trust
Councillor Hogg	Council's Lib Dem Representative on Visit York Member of York Museums Trust Employee of the National Railway Museum
Councillor Waudby	Governor at Lakeside Primary School

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## Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 December 2009

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

### **YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT: 2009/10 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

#### **Summary**

1. This report is to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

#### **Background**

2. The four year SLA is a joint agreement between the Council and the York Theatre Royal. It sets out:
  - the key objectives of the partnership
  - performance targets and indicators to be met by the Theatre
  - performance information to be provided
  - review and reporting procedures
  - partnership arrangements between the Council and the Theatre
3. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA 2009 – 2012. This report covers the first half of the financial year 2009/10.
4. The SLA provides a process whereby the agreement with the Theatre will be formally reviewed by the Council towards the end of those four years and a further plan for the next four years will be agreed. The Council's funding for 2009/10 under the SLA is £304k. The Theatre also receives funding from the Education budget of £15k to support the Partners in Education and Theatre (PET) scheme. This is included in the performance report from the Theatre (Annex 1).
5. The key partnership requirements covered in the SLA are:
  - The need to provide a year round programme of high quality work promoting the city regionally, nationally and internationally
  - The potential for the theatre to take a more significant role in supporting children and young people to enjoy and achieve in schools and in extended schools settings

- The opportunity for the Studio theatre to support new talent in the creative sector in the region
  - The need to ensure that the theatre was accessible and developed its audiences especially within those sectors of the community that traditionally had low attendance or participation rates
  - The need to improve the proportion of earned income against public investment
6. The report from York Theatre Royal (Annex A) sets out how they have addressed these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

### **Consultation**

7. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

### **Options**

8. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

### **Corporate Strategy**

9. The York Theatre Royal contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

### **Implications**

10. Annex A details the contribution the Theatre makes to supporting our Equalities Agenda. In particular their free theatre tickets for young people has been particularly well used as has the provision of an audio description service for each main house production.
11. There are no additional implications relating to:
- Finance
  - Human Resources
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology

### **Risk Management**

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report

## Recommendations

13. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the performance of the York Theatre Royal.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the Service Agreement

### Contact Details

**Authors:**

Gill Cooper  
Head of Arts and Culture  
Ext. 4671

Vicky Biles  
General Manager  
York Theatre Royal

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**Report Approved****Date**

19.11.09.

**Wards Affected:****All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Service Level Agreement 2009-2012 - Annex 3 to January 2008 Performance Report

**Annexes**

**Annex A** - Theatre Royal Performance Report April – September 2009

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## **YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT: 2009/10 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the Trustees of York Citizens' Theatre Trust Ltd we are delighted to be able to update Members on the progress that York Theatre Royal has made since the last EMAP Report.

### **2 THE PROGRAMME**

- 2.1 Once again York Theatre Royal has had another successful year, with many highlights, which further add to the Theatre's reputation for being one of the best repertory producing Theatres in the region.
- 2.2 The Railway Children 2009 was a huge success and the production continues to be put forward for national awards, having won both the Visit York Visitor Experience of the Year 2008 and the Welcome to Yorkshire White Rose Award for Best Tourism Experience 2009.
  - 2.3.1 Having secured £50,000 from the Arts Council, the premier award for their A Night Less Ordinary scheme, we have been working hard to promote our work to under 26s. To date 4,369 young people have signed up for their Free Theatre pass, which gives them access to free tickets for all our productions.
  - 2.3.2 In addition York Theatre Royal produced the first TakeOver Festival in September, when we handed over the programming and running of our building to young people for three weeks. It was a truly amazing experience and we are very proud of this unique initiative. We recruited a Board of Directors aged between 11 and 26 years and a senior management team who worked with our staff on the planning and programming of the Festival. A larger team of young people then joined them in the summer to run the Festival. The Arts Council were hugely impressed with the idea of involving young people more deeply in our work and we have been used as an example of good practice at numerous national conferences and events. We are currently undertaking an extensive evaluation of TakeOver09 and plan to offer a similar opportunity to young people next year.
- 2.4 York Theatre Royal main house productions in 2009 have included Twelfth Night and The Homecoming. Although very different in tone and content both were strong productions and well received by all who saw them. We did however suffer a slight fall in audience attendance, which effected income, but we took immediate steps to manage any potential shortfall (see paragraph 8 - Finance).

- 2.5 We have continued our strong relationship with resident Pilot Theatre, co-producing The Fever Chart in the Studio, and with Tutti Frutti, co-producing If Only The Lonely and Visiting Grandad, again in the Studio for younger audiences.
- 2.6 Our annual programme of work is supported by our Christmas production. Last year's pantomime, DICK TURPIN, was Berwick's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary production and was a great artistic and commercial success. The V&A filmed a performance for their national archive. Bookings for Humpty Dumpty, this years offering, are strong to date and we are looking forward to starting rehearsals.
- 2.7 Another important aspect of the Theatre's programming has been to stage the very best in dance, touring theatre, music and one-night events into the Main House, including Desperate To Be Doris (with it's community choir) and regular visits from Hull Truck, ETT, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Phoenix Dance Theatre.
- 2.8 We continue to work very closely with the Amateur Societies in the City offering space in the Main House and Studio by developing good working relationships with as many non professional companies as possible.

### **3 LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

#### **PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION & THEATRE - PET**

- 3.1 As you will know, the PET project is a three way partnership between York Theatre Royal, City of York Council, Arts and Culture and individual schools.
- 3.2 York Theatre Royal employs two Education Associates who carry out the main body of the project work both in the school and at the theatre as appropriate. This year we have employed an Education Associate on a 10 month internship from Central School of Speech and Drama to further support this work.
- 3.3 The PET Project combines a broad range of the Council's, Theatre's and the Schools' aims and objectives which in summary are to provide creative teaching and learning opportunities across the whole curriculum in both the theatre and school settings.
- 3.4 We work with schools to exploit the role of the Arts in the school improvement agenda, to provide quality and sustained professional development opportunities for teachers in the partnership schools (both specialists and non-specialists) in Arts delivery.
- 3.5 We encourage young people, their parents and school staff to attend the theatre as a recreational activity, by offering discounts and regular updates.

- 3.6 This year we are working with seven schools (one more than last year) -
- Park Grove primary
  - Knavesmire primary
  - St.Oswald's primary
  - Federation of Hob Moor primary and Hob Moor Oaks special school
  - Acomb primary
  - Carr juniors
  - Joseph Rowntree school (secondary)
- 3.7 CYC contributes £15,000 a year, and each school pays £3,000 to participate in the scheme. Recruitment begins in the Spring for the PET schools, and the choices are made in conjunction with Arts and Culture and YTR.
- 3.8 Our Youth Theatre continues to thrive and currently has a membership of 350 young people aged between 5 and 25 years who meet every week and are interested in and committed to making, seeing and performing pieces of theatre.
- 3.9 There is a three tier fee paying system in operation, with discounts for families in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit and Means Tested Benefits.
- 3.11 The Youth Theatre rehearses in the Ballroom at the De Grey Rooms. There are opportunities for public performances in the Studio each term, and every two years in the Main House.
- 3.12 The Youth Theatre has a Young People's Forum which meets regularly and represents the views of the members - two of the Forum also sit on the Board of Trustees.
- 3.13 The Young Actors Company, a Youth Theatre group for over 18s continues to go from strength to strength. Their production of Equus, produced as part of the TakeOver09 Festival, was very well received.

#### **4 PERFORMANCE RELATED**

- 4.1 We continue to organise Theatre open days and participate in Residents First weekend, when our tours of the building are always very popular.
- 4.2 For all Main House productions we provide a sign language interpreted performance, an audio described performance and a captioned performance. We are currently a partner, with Harrogate Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse in the See A Voice Yorkshire hub. This has given us valuable training opportunities and funds to buy vital equipment, which the three theatres now share.

- 4.3 We also continued to engage with other organisations in the City and are currently part of the Four York cultural leadership programme with Pilot Theatre, York Museums Trust and City Libraries and Archives.

## **5 MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY**

- 5.1 Daniel Bates left the organisation in September to take up the post of CEO at Sheffield Theatre. Liz Wilson, our new CEO, who is currently Executive Director of Oldham Coliseum joins us in December.
- 5.2 As an Investors in People, we have continued the professional development of our staff team by formulating an annual organisational wide training programme. We are currently working toward re-accreditation in September 2010.
- 5.3 Our Board of Trustees continue to strengthen and challenge the organisation.
- 5.4 We continue to develop links with the City of York and the Arts Industry and all the Management team are involved with networks, Board memberships and outside bodies including locally with York St John University, Women Without Walls, regionally with Audiences Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Producing Theatres, and nationally with the Theatre Management Association, National Association of Youth Theatres, Arts Marketing Association and the Arts Council.

## **6 MARKETING AND AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1 As previously reported, much of York Theatre Royal's audience lives within the City of York itself:  
43% of YTR's bookers live within 15 minutes' drive of the theatre  
75% live within 45 minutes' drive  
82% live within an hour of the theatre.
- 6.2 Last financial year we sold 171,000 tickets (against 163,000 in 2007/8), 27,000 of which were to people under 26. 47% of our tickets are sold at a concession/discounted rate.
- 6.3 We continue to develop our local audience through Stage Partners - a corporate sponsorship programme which enables local businesses to bring large numbers of their staff and clients, who might otherwise not consider themselves theatre-goers, to a variety of productions every year.

## **7 SITE SPECIFIC WORK**

- 7.1 YTR has been keen to develop its staff team's experience in working on site specific piece of work and to develop an audience for this work - this is



providing a popular stand of our work, and has led to the development of THE RAILWAY CHILDREN at the NRM.

7.2 The Railway Children key facts:

- In two years 2008 and 2009 there were 119 performances, which played to 84% capacity.
- In 2008 23,648 people saw the show. In 2009 that increased to 26,236 people
- The production had 5 star reviews from local and national press and generated £1.7 million worth of press coverage.
- 41% tickets were sold on line. The greatest percentage were family tickets.
- The production was accessible and enjoyed by all.

7.3 We are exploring the possibility of another site specific production in York in summer 2010.

**8 FINANCE**

8.1 In 2008/9, for the second year in a row we created a small surplus of funds of £21,192.

8.2 The surplus arose primarily from a fantastic result from our Trading Income, but particularly Café and Bar.

8.3 As previous reported we identified a short fall in income early on in the financial year 2009/10 and have took immediate steps to manage what could be a potential short fall for the year. We applied to the Arts Council Sustain fund and have received a grant of £110,000 to help us plug any gap resulting in any effect of economic downturn. We are will continue to monitor the situation carefully.

**9 THE FUTURE**

9.1 We look forward to the arrival of our new CEO.

9.2 We remain committed to the development of our buildings and spaces - allowing money in our budgets for repairs and maintenance of the current building, and to pursue our plans to develop the Colonnade and the De Grey Rooms linkage.

9.3 We are still exploring the possibility of taking over the lease of the ground floor of the De Grey Rooms when the VIC moves out in March 2009 although this is a further financial cost.

9.4 We continue to contribute to the idea of a CULTURAL QUARTER for the city.

**10 SUMMARY**

10.1 We remain a very open and accessible organisation, offering opportunities for audiences to see high quality work that will enthral, challenge and excite.

10.2 We are naturally cautious in the current financial climate on what the future holds for us, in terms of audience numbers, availability of cash to spend etc.

10.3 We continue to develop links with the City of York and the Arts Industry and all the Management team are involved with networks, Board memberships and outside bodies.

10.4 We want to ensure that York Theatre Royal continues to grow and develop, and remains an open, accessible and fit for purpose building and organisation, feeding the life of the City and our community.

**Vicky Biles  
General Manager  
November 2009**



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**Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

10 December 2009

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN:  
2009/10 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE****Summary**

1. This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan. The York Museums Trust's full report is at Annex A.

**Background**

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by members in December 2007 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the next five years. Members have asked for regular updates on progress. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance. This report covers the first half of the financial year 2009/10.
3. The key target areas set out in the PDP relate to:
  - a) Stabilising visitor figures
  - b) Delivering new income streams
  - c) New exhibitions and interpretative service
  - d) Create an education strategy
  - e) Increase use and involvement by residents
  - f) Achieve high visitor satisfaction
  - g) Ensure the cataloguing of the collection
4. The report sets out how they have addressed these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

**Consultation**

5. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

## **Options**

6. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

## **Corporate Strategy**

7. YMT's business plan contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure. Reinvestment in the museums is an identified priority within the sub-regional investment plan.

## **Implications**

8. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT which in 2009/10 is £1,516,850. The grant is uplifted for inflation each year. The current financial arrangements have been agreed to 2013.
9. The report has no implications relating to:
  - Human Resources
  - Equalities
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology
  - Property
  - Other

## **Risk Management**

10. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

## **Recommendations**

11. That the Scrutiny Committee notes and comments upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

**Contact Details**

**Authors:**

Fiona Williams  
Head of Libraries and Heritage  
Tel No.01904 553316

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director Lifelong Learning and Culture

Janet Barnes  
Chief Executive YMT  
York Museums Trust

**Report Approved**



**Date** 19.11.09.

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan December 2007.

**Annexes**

**Annex A** – York Museums Trust Half Year Performance Update Report 2009-10

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## YORK MUSEUMS TRUST PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN: 2009/10 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE

### Analysis of Performance

1. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) sets out a number of key targets relating to the Council's core objectives. The following paragraphs summarise the progress towards the 7 major targets outlined in the PDP.

#### a) Stabilising visitor figures

2. After a strong 2008/09 visitor numbers have grown again in the first six months of 2009/10.

**York Castle Museum** has performed well, since the opening of **York Castle Prison** display in July numbers have been up by an average of 11% compared with the same period last year.

**Yorkshire Museum** benefited from our experimental 'Kids Go Free' offer and numbers were 16% up, even before the arrival of the famous **Vale of York Viking Hoard**. Thereafter, up until closure for refurbishment, the numbers were double those of 2008.

**York Art Gallery** is currently 9% up on last year and the new **Japanese Sashiko Textiles** exhibition is proving particularly popular.

Overall visitor numbers for the Trust are 9% higher than last year.

Detailed figures for the full year are given at the end of the report.

#### b) Delivering new income streams

3. Details of all the successful fundraising applications made during the reporting period are attached.
4. **Vale of York Viking Hoard:** The Trust launched a Public Appeal to buy the Vale of York Viking Hoard jointly with the British Museum. Our contribution to this joint acquisition was £30,000 which was successfully raised. The Hoard went on display to the public for the first time on 17 September at the Yorkshire Museum to which everyone who had contributed was invited.
5. **Yorkshire Museum *Letting in the Light*:** The museum is now closed for the refurbishment project and will reopen on 1 August 2010. The following funds are secured:

City of York Council	£800,000
Monument Trust	£300,000
DCMS/Wolfson	£200,000

HUB	£315,000
Foyle Foundation	£75,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	£200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,890,000</b>

This leaves £177,000 still to raise. We are planning to close this funding gap through:

Development Board	£30,000
Lease of Land	£75,000
Other	£20,000

The Trustees were confident that the plans for the continuing fundraising were sufficiently robust to agree the budget for the Yorkshire Museum refurbishment.

6. The Development Board is finalising its plans to host the Yorkshire Gourmet Dinner on 20 May at the Hospitium which will seek to raise funds towards their £30,000. The sale of the lease to the new restaurant at Lendal Tower is progressing and we plan to reinvest the £75,000 in the refurbishment project. We will be seeking the remaining £20,000 plus through other trusts and foundations.
7. **Conferencing and Venue hire** was minimal in 2002/03; the turnover in 2006/07 was more than £85,000, yielding a profit of more than £20,000 after all costs. In 2008-9, the first full year of business, turnover was £165,000 and profit was £40,000. This year the recession has had an impact, however the wedding business has held up well. We are forecasting that profit will increase by more than 50%. This income stream will help fund capital projects in the Museum Gardens, Yorkshire Museum, York Art Gallery and the Castle Museum and will be ploughed back to improve the services we offer to the public.
8. **The Enterprises Board** has met regularly to advise and plan the business activities of the Trust. The Board has plans to refurbish the Castle Museum's café and shop early in 2010.
9. **Renaissance in the Regions** continues to be an important income stream from Central Government, administered by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). This funding is currently underpinning our Lifelong Learning and Collections Care, the growing Volunteers scheme as well as the Museum Gardens improvement project. In 2008/9 it amounted to £593,382. The budget for 2009-10 is £565,000, and the focus has shifted to economic sustainability.

### c) New exhibitions and interpretative service

10. **York Art Gallery:** The new *Gallery of Pots* opened at York Art Gallery in September. Ben Arnup, a potter who is based locally, formally opened the gallery for the Friends of York Art Gallery on 9 September and the following evening, Emmanuel Cooper spoke at the VIP evening. The opening display **Three Collectors** represented the collections of Dean Milner-White, W A Ismay and



Henry Rothschild. The first floor gallery is much improved by the introduction of daylight through sun pipes and wind catchers have increased the ventilation.

11. **St Ives** was the main exhibition over the summer and was very well received with 71,611 visitors. The exhibition included works from York's collections, including pots, with paintings from the Arts Council's Collection.

The current exhibition, **Japanese Sashiko Textiles** is an international exhibition showing for the first time in the UK this particular type of Japanese clothing. The exhibition has been organised by the Trust and is our first international loan exhibition. Funding for the exhibition was from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Arts Council England and it will tour to Glasgow and Plymouth during 2010.

12. We were delighted to win the Conservation category at the **York Design Awards** ceremony which took place on 13 July at York College. The conservation award was for the refurbished South Gallery at York Art Gallery. The judges referred to the transformation of the art gallery since they first visited it some years ago and the creative curatorial approach.
13. In the **Little Gallery** we exhibited two exhibitions during this period: **A Different View: the Changing Landscape in York** which was on display until 19 July and proved very popular, particularly with local residents. Topographical works from our permanent collection were displayed and showed how York had changed over the years.
14. The second exhibition **Reflections on War** which is still on show was a community curated exhibition which opened in July. More than 50 local people, ranging in age from 11 to 93, worked together on this exhibition, supported by songwriters, poets and curators, who shared their ideas and memories inspired by the collections. The result is an exhibition filled with personal insight and experience, reflecting on war and conflict since the late 1800s. This was funded through **Their Past Your Future**.
15. **Yorkshire Museum:** We organised a small display in partnership with the York City archives on York's two most famous astronomers, John Goodricke and Edward Piggott.
16. The Yorkshire Museum had a very busy September and October with the exhibition on the Vale of York Viking Hoard. We were very keen to have the Hoard on display at York before it was seen in London and before the closure of the museum on 1 November. The Hoard is now being conserved and we hope it will return to the Yorkshire Museum when we reopen next year. The new partnership with the British Museum will strengthen over the next few months with plans for the British Museum to lend us significant objects for the new displays and we are in discussion with them for a number of the museum's most important objects such as the Middleham Jewel and the Coppergate Helmet to be featured in an exhibition on the Yorkshire Museum within the British Museum from February to July 2009. This would give the Yorkshire Museum such a boost and help raise its profile in anticipation of the reopening in August.

17. The significance of the Yorkshire Museum archaeology collection cannot be overstated. This is also true of the Science collection. When the Assistant Curator of Astronomy attended the Bolides and Meteorites 2009 Conference in Prague in May to present a paper on the Middlesbrough Meteorite, it attracted much attention from the Centro de Astrobiologia, Torrejon de Ardoz, Madrid (which is associated to the NASA Astrobiology Institute) and the Max Planck Institute in Germany and these institutes are now interested in pursuing further research on the meteorite.
18. **Castle Museum:** The York Castle Prison experience was opened by Gary Verity, CEO of Welcome to Yorkshire, on 17 July. The interpretation is based on the research of actual individuals who were imprisoned in the Debtors prison during the 18th century. The interpretation has been achieved through sound and films projected on to the walls of the cells.

We also completed the ramp that has improved the visitor flow.

19. We also organised Victorian shopping trails in Kirkgate, Tudor 'rich and poor' activities in the Education Room and 1960's fashion in the Costume Studio. On the weekend of 20-21 June the Castle became Tudor as Henry VIII (costumed interpreter John White) set-up residence. In addition, food historian Ivan Day created marvellous authentic Tudor food for the public to try.
20. **York St Mary's:** The latest installation at York St Mary's, *Five Sisters*, was inspired by the stained glass window at the Minster and was created by Matt Collings and Emma Biggs. The new installation attracted 30,279 visitors in total. The mosaic installation by Emma Biggs was created in part from C13th and C14th sherds of Brandsby Ware from Yorkshire Museum's collection and this was complemented with paintings by Matthew Collings. All accessioned items have been carefully numbered and are secured with water soluble glue so they can be returned to our stores once the installation closes. A film of the making of the mosaic commissioned from the Institute of the Understanding of the Past (IPUP) which is based at the University of York, was also on view.

#### **d) Create an education strategy**

21. The learning activities continue to grow apace and develop across all sites and are supported by the Renaissance in the Regions funding. The learning team's expertise and approach are central to the development of all projects across the Trust to ensure that learning is at the core of all our work. There has been a slight fall in school children balanced by a large increase in adult learning, family learning and events.
22. The total number of **school child visits** during this period was down by 600 to 13,849. The numbers recovered in the second three month period to just over the same number for the corresponding three months last year. The same number of York schools visited as this time last year but they have made a 30% increase in

the number of visits with many of them visiting 2,3 or even 6 times in the 6 months

23. The following **York schools** have visited the Trust:

Acorn Kaleidoscope Nursery x 2	Poppleton Road Primary x 1
Bright Beginnings Nursery x 1	Robert Wilkinson x 6
York College Day Nursery x 2	Rufforth Primary x 1
Acomb Primary x 1	Scarcroft Primary x 2
Archbishop of York's CE x 2	St. Aelred's RC x 1
Badger Hill Primary x 1	St. Barnabas' CE Primary x 3
Burton Green Primary (N) x 1	St. George's RC Primary x 6
Clifton With Rawcliffe x 3	St. Lawrence's CE x 3
Derwent Junior x 1	St. Mary's CE Primary x 1
Dunnington CE (VC) x 1	Westfield Primary x 1
Fishergate Primary (N) x 3	Wigginton Primary x 2
Haxby Road Primary (N) x 4	Woodthorpe Primary x 1
Headlands Primary x 2	Yearsley Grove Primary x 1
Hempland Primary x 4	Archbishop Holgate's CE x 3
Heworth CE Primary (VA) x 1	Huntington Secondary x 1
Huntington Primary x 2	Joseph Rowntree x 2
Knavesmire Primary (N) x 1	Millthorpe Secondary x 2
Lakeside Primary x 2	English in York x 7
Lord Deramore's Primary x 1	Melton College x 5
Naburn CE Primary (VC) x 1	York Sixth Form College x 2
Our Lady's RC Primary x 1	York St Johns College x 8
Poppleton Ousebank x 2	York Tutors x 9
	University of York x 2

24. The new **Adult Learning** programme targeted at York residents started in September with a programme of over 70 days of events across all sites compared to a total of 17 over the same period last year. The numbers of people taking part have risen during this period from 476 to 1,354 participants. We have secured additional funding of £57,000 to support our Adult Learning from MLA and the Department of Business Innovation and Skills.
25. We have set up a **Learning Advisory Group** of local experts and leaders in learning. The group will help us ensure our learning programmes take advantage of all the new initiatives in learning and are matched up to the wider local, regional and national agendas.
26. **York Castle Museum:** Two new learning areas have been created within York Castle Prison providing exciting immersive spaces not only for schools but for holiday events and family learning.
27. We are also developing a new QCA approved schools programme called **Campaign: Make an Impact!** This uses historical campaigns as a spring board for young people to explore issues of human rights and injustice in their own lives and gives them skills to develop their own campaigns. Campaigns have included

climate change, bullying, and asylum seekers. We will use the story of Elizabeth Fry who campaigned for prison reform in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and visited the York Castle Prison as part of her campaign. This will be a great opportunity to explore this important story and develop innovative teaching.

28. **York Art Gallery: *Just the job*** in partnership with NYBEP took place in July when 20 pupils from Heworth Primary school took over the running of the Gallery for a day.
29. In the ***Gallery of Pots*** we have created a learning space with the pottery handling collection. Local potters were invited to donate a piece of work to the Gallery with photographs of the piece being made. Six local potters came forward and their work is included in the handling collection.
30. **Yorkshire Museum and Gardens:** The learning team also led on the development and delivery of informal events for the general public with an emphasis on families and family learning. We have had more people coming to events than ever before with over 82,000 people attending events across all sites. Of particular note has been the Science programme at the Yorkshire Museum featuring ***Wild Wednesdays***, which proved a great success with over 2,000 people attending. This year we had some wonderful rockets, studied worms, and led on some amazing science experiments. Partnerships included the RSPB and NYBEP. There was also a big increase in activities in the Observatory.
31. **Learning Outside the Classroom:** All four of our venues in the Trust have been awarded the new Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. This badge recognises and rewards our proven ongoing commitment to providing excellent Learning resources and facilities. In addition, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is promoting the Quality Badge as an easy way for teachers to identify venues that offer educational services at an approved high standard.

This been chosen as a model of best practice by the MLA. Their report of the project can be found at:

[www.mla.gov.uk/what/raising\\_standards/best\\_practice/York\\_Museum\\_Trust](http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/raising_standards/best_practice/York_Museum_Trust)

#### **e) Increase use and involvement by residents**

32. **Volunteers Scheme:** We have over 150 active volunteers working across all sites. This year we have reopened Raindale Mill at the Castle Museum with volunteers working two days a week. We have increased the number of Observatory volunteers and as a consequence the number of days it is open and visitors enjoying it. We also have U3A volunteers and members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society working on the Yorkshire Museum *Letting in the Light* project and over 40 students help out in the studios at the Castle Museum.

33. **Community Payback:** Our partnership with the Youth Offending Team is bearing fruit with a number of young people on community payback now working in the Museum Gardens every week. Although individuals on the community payback are not volunteers they are being managed under our volunteer scheme. This project has been chosen as one of the National Case Studies for evaluation of the MLA Community Engagement programme.
34. **Territories:** September saw the end of another very successful *Territories* year when 15 artists led 125 sessions with 445 participants and 55 support staff from 14 local community organisations. These included Salvation Army, York Blind and Partially Sighted Society, Applefields School, St Martins Church, and Song Box. *Territories* is seen as leading the way in community arts learning. The territories website is now live on [www.territories.org.uk](http://www.territories.org.uk). The programme plays a large part in the summer activities Studio Saturdays and this year in the *Reflections of War* exhibition.
35. **York Art Gallery and Exhibition Square:** The *People Changing Places* scheme is funded by the Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) through the Wakefield based organisation BEAM. It is a consultation project to stimulate debate about the public spaces in York. This project is about the potential of Exhibition Square. The Trust is part of the project.
36. **Community Archaeology:** This summer the Community Archaeology project took a slightly different approach to public engagement. In July the knowledge and expertise gained from the community archaeology research workshops was used to create outreach activities that were taken to a variety of 13 off-site outdoor events with a total audience of 4,879. The main activity was Roman cooking using a replica oven, based on workshops carried out with York College catering students, but there were also Roman hairdressing, based on work with York College media make-up students, and Roman brick and tile making, based on work with York Hand Made Brick Company.
37. **Society for Arts and Architecture study in York:** Our Art curators have been involved with setting up a student branch of the Friends of York Art Gallery. The aim is to attract more students to the Friends and the Gallery. A launch event in November attracted over 230 young people to York Art Gallery.
38. **City of York Council Ward Committees:** The Trust's community archaeology team attended 9 of CYC's summer Ward Committees covering 12 of the city's 22 wards including the following, reaching in all 1,045 people:
  - Westfield
  - Dringhouses & Woodthorpe
  - Heworth
  - Fishergate
  - Guildhall
  - Micklegate
  - Derwent, Heworth W'out & Osbaldwick
  - Acomb

- Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake
39. We ran the Roman Cooking activity with public tasting at all the meetings, and with help from current students on York College's media make-up course ran Roman hairdressing at 8 of the events. We were keen to build relationships through these events with:
- Councillors from all 4 political parties represented on the council including the Leader, Executive Member for Culture and the Lord Mayor,
  - City of York Council staff - building relationships has already led to the possibility of collaboration with the Neighbourhood Management Unit on work with young people,
  - Other local organisations who are potential partners – the Danesgate Skills Centre has a fully equipped hairdressing salon and is interested in joint workshops on Roman hairdressing, and a healthy eating charity is interested in establishing workshops for schools,
  - Members of the public who attended the meetings and engaged with the activities,
  - Residents of York – the meetings and the Trust part in them were publicised to all the households in the 12 wards.

#### **f) Achieve high visitor satisfaction**

40. **Visitor Quality Assessment Report:** We have had the 2009 report on the quality assessments to visits to York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and York Art Gallery. The mystery visits took place in September. All three merited the award of Visit England's accreditation of 'Quality Assured Visitor Attraction'.
41. **Museum Gardens:** The work on the Museum Gardens continues apace with the new planting which looked at its best in the summer. We have made improvements to the grass quality and extended wildlife reserve areas. We have also recruited new Garden Guides to ensure the visitors to the gardens have a safe, enjoyable and informative visit. They play an important role in dealing with antisocial behaviour as well as being a welcoming and reassuring presence.
42. We have undertaken audience consultation in partnership with IPUP, undertaken visitor counts and observations, consulted with local people and daily users of the gardens. This is giving us a much clearer understanding of their interests and needs. This is being factored into our draft Garden Strategy which we will be taking to Trustees in the new year for endorsement and action. Initial counts suggest that over 1,300,000 people visit the gardens each year. The work in the gardens has been supported with generous donations from the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.
43. We have introduced visitor comments books and sheets across our 3 main sites to ensure the ongoing monitoring of our performance. Some typical comments

received were. On the **Sashiko** exhibition: "I was recommended this exhibition by a friend and I will certainly tell others to visit. What an amazing craft and fascinating background I have learned so much", "How wonderful, what a delight to see these garments close to. I love the contemporary garments and I am inspired to take up Sashiko quilting with my own humble designs. Thank you for your reminder of Hiroshima very moving". Comments for the new **York Castle Prison** experience included: "Fantastic – will be coming back again. Very interesting and really makes you think about what it must have been like", "Very well presented and innovative", "Really interesting – not boring at all – great!"

#### g) Ensure the cataloguing of the collection

44. **Documentation:** The upgrade of our Adlib documentation software has now been completed. Curators are still in the process of identifying minor glitches with the software and Adlib are working closely with us to correct these. It is likely that this process will continue until next year, but all users are now experiencing improved functionality and easier data entry with the new system.
45. The upgrade is timely in that 2010 is our deadline for completing the retrospective documentation of the collection to meet Accreditation targets. This will give us a basic index of the material in the collection which will then be expanded on a project by project basis. Balancing the demands of the documentation programme and more public facing activities such as exhibition programmes or events is a challenge for all curatorial teams, and ensures a lively level of activity across all teams.
46. We are also linking images to records where available and checking terms used in Adlib for consistency, cleaning out incorrect terminology. This process will be ongoing for some further time as the new Adlib software has improved searching capability, making it easier to find inconsistencies.
47. **Archaeology:** 2,238 records on Adlib have been edited and cleaned by tidying up terminology and eliminating inconsistencies and have entered 58 objects not previously recorded.
48. **Art team:** The art team have focussed primarily on *Gallery of Pots* and the *Japanese Sashiko Textiles* exhibition which has resulted in a limited amount of documentation work. The team plan to focus on documentation in 2010 with the completion of these projects. 190 records entered onto Adlib including works on paper and 38 ceramics, mostly pots which have gone on display in the *Gallery of Pots*.
49. **Costume and Textiles:** Over the period 162 records for shoes and jewellery coming off display at the Castle Museum have been entered onto Adlib and 176 manual records created for men's accessories, a varied collection of smaller dress accessories, including ties, cravats, scarves, hosiery, and gloves. Some interesting and rare early ties from c1850-1870 have come to light, complete with maker's labels. There are also some rare men's embroidered socks from the

1820s to the 1850s, in fine silk and cotton. Paper records were created for 270 objects, mostly female accessories, of which 120 records were added to Adlib. Volunteers also created paper records for 113 hats.

50. Now that access to Adlib has been installed at the James Street stores, it should be possible to speed up adding records to Adlib. It is also hoped that volunteers from NADFAS (National Association of Fine and Decorative Art Societies) can start working on the collections in the autumn.
51. **Social History Team:** The team have started to record objects at Fulford. This is a large store containing two sealed units with material ranging from gas cookers to roundabouts and carriages, large vehicles and agricultural items as well as objects relating to local crafts and occupations. They have also worked with a volunteer (a pharmacist) in documenting the items relating to chemists and apothecaries in the collection (we have items dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries including Delft drug jars, York made glass bottles and three pharmacy drug runs of different periods - including a rare early example possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century in date). They have created 1,014 paper records which will now be input onto Adlib.
52. In addition, a further 175 paper records and 167 Adlib records for objects in the Toy, Founder's, Hearth, Moorland Cottage and 17<sup>th</sup> Century dining room displays at the Castle Museum have been added. 219 records were created for objects at Riccall Stores which we have expanded to store more objects.
53. **Military:** 802 records added to Adlib for uniforms and documents and edged weapons. Just over 1,200 items have been checked against their paper records.
54. **Storage:** In preparation for the new York Castle Prison display and the installation of the new ramp at the Castle Museum, all the craft workshops from the cell area of the Debtor's Prison have been moved out to store. The dismantling of the printing workshop in particular required specialist expertise to dismantle and reassemble the equipment in its new home. As this material was moving into a new storage unit, work was also undertaken to organise the installation of fans, dehumidifiers etc, to combat the problems of high humidity in the units. The security has also been improved at the store.
55. Our annual check-ups on storage facilities took place this quarter, with visits by the Collection Manager and Director of Collections to stores. All facilities are assessed against 'Benchmarks in Collections Care' which is a national standard to assess good, better and best practice in all areas of collections care. The visits help to ensure good standards are maintained, to identify any problem areas and will also inform the forthcoming plan for storage improvements at the Trust. Particularly encouraging were the excellent standards and continuous improvement at the Birch Park store which houses primarily archaeology but also ceramics and biology. The store has been re-organised to allow public visits and these have been arranged for local groups.



56. **Research:** With assistance from the University of York's Department of History of Art, we have recently appointed a part-time Paul Mellon Foundation funded research curator to work on our forthcoming William Etty exhibition which will take place in summer 2011.
57. Other research projects and enquiries include:
- Letters from potter Lucie Rie in the Ismay archives in preparation for a forthcoming book,
  - Castle records and objects in connection with the York Castle Prison project,
  - Objects and printed material associated with Dick Turpin as a criminal celebrity,
  - Concert programmes and related ephemera to do with Dr Camidge and the York Music Festivals of the early 19th century,
  - Cookery book collection as part of the changing patterns of food in York since 1950,
  - Medieval stained glass to inform the Medieval displays in the Yorkshire Museum.
58. **Conservation:** Results of York Archaeological Trust Condition Assessment Programme for collections at the Yorkshire Museum will lead into a prioritised conservation programme for the new displays in the Yorkshire Museum, the first part of which is the conservation of the collection of swords which are now being conserved by YAT labs. A newly bequeathed rocking horse and a longcase clock are also undergoing conservation prior to display at the Castle Museum.

### Detailed Visitor Numbers

Six months from April 2009 to September 2009

*(excluding conference visitors)*

	Actual	Last year	% Change
Castle Museum	169,387	157,151	+8%
York Art Gallery	89,803	82,385	+9%
York St Mary's	24,024	23,663	+1.5%
Yorkshire Museum	34,526	27,978	+23%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>317,740</b>	<b>291,177</b>	<b>+9%</b>

59. **Financial Stability:** Draft accounts show that YMT made a small surplus in 2008-09 and continues to be financially stable, but it has always been recognised that in an increasingly competitive and demanding market it would require further investment funding and capital investment to prosper.
60. The investment in the Hospitium facilities is delivering profits and bookings are holding up well under the economic pressure. Plans are in place to improve the café and retail facilities at the Castle Museum this year with a view to increasing secondary spend.
61. Core funding for 2008-2013 has been agreed at the current level, plus an inflationary uplift.
62. It has not been possible for the Council to commit to any additional investment funding. However, the Council is holding £1.163m of capital funding for YMT (of the original £1.898m). £850,000 has been allocated to the Yorkshire Museum project which has a total cost of £2m.

<b>April 2009 -September 2009</b>	<b>Castle Museum</b>	<b>Yorkshire Museum</b>	<b>York Art Gallery</b>	<b>Observatory</b>	<b>York St Mary's</b>	<b>Total numbers across all sites</b>
Visiting children in York school groups (Ages 0-16)						
• Nursery	<b>14</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
• Primary	<b>616</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,691</b>
• Secondary	<b>81</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138</b>
• Other	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,925</b>
Visiting children in non-York school groups (Ages 0-16)						
• Nursery	<b>68</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106</b>
• Primary	<b>4,110</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>5,901</b>
• Secondary	<b>3,108</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,883</b>
• Other	<b>110</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,396</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>10,157</b>
Student Educational visits HE + FE (Ages 17+)	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>
Students on a general visit HE + FE (Ages 17+)	<b>1,165</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,746</b>
Events (Extra activities taking place on site for the general visitor)	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>
Number of visitors to events	<b>62,213</b>	<b>14,479</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>82,380</b>
Outreach events	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
Number users of outreach events	<b>1,411</b>	<b>3,506</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,587</b>
Educational Activities (Workshops)	<b>93</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181</b>
Informal Learning Groups on site (For example Territories etc...)	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>
Users of informal Learning on site	<b>99</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,354</b>
Number of instances of teachers in contact with museums, excluding visits with school parties	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>

## Educational Visits

April 2009 - September 2009

	Transactions	Objects	Notes
Acquisitions	13	38	Acquisitions include: a donated earthenware bowl with abstract lustre decoration (1980-1990) by Sutton Taylor, a Yorkshire potter; framed shop displays of badges, medals and ribbons, the OBE awarded to Arthur Anderson and two dress jackets were received from Andersons Gentleman's Outfitters on closure of the business; a doll's pram, doll and bedding were donated for display in Toy Stories; a painting by William Ety - <i>Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball</i> was purchased with the aid of grants; a portrait of John Carr; a cannon ball from the Marston Moor battlefield; a handwritten notebook detailing the diets of prisoners in York Castle Prison between 1856 and 1864.
Archaeological sites	7	0	Accession numbers were issued to archaeological units for various work within the collecting area: CS Archaeology, MAP Archaeological Consultancy, Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd and York Archaeological Trust for work undertaken in Blossom Street, York.
Disposals	0	0	
Image Use Requests	120	618	
Loans In	3	20	Works belonging to the Arts Council have been borrowed from several venues for the St Ives exhibition at York Art Gallery. Two incoming loans have been made to the Art Gallery, both specially commissioned: 'Lythrum' by Paul Morrison, silver leaf and acrylic on linen, is on display in the South Gallery and 'The Anonymous Rose' by Simon Periton, spray enamel and mirror on glass, is in the stairwell.
Loans Out	12	193	Objects have been loaned to the following exhibitions: 'The History of Ballymoney', Ballymoney Museum; 'Shedding Light on the Dark Ages', Dudley Museum and Art Gallery; 'Contemporary Fine and Applied Arts: 1928-2009', Tate Saint Ives; 'Fired Ceramics', Ryedale Folk Museum, 'The Face and Figure of Shakespeare 1709-1790: How Britain's Sculptors Invented a National Hero', Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham and the '400th Anniversary of Lisburn', Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum. Paintings have been loaned to the Lethaby Gallery, Central St Martin's College of Art and Design, Compton Verney in Warwickshire and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Ceramics by Hans Coper have been loaned to a major retrospective exhibition in Japan which opened at the first venue, the Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo. The exhibition 'Art in Life' comprising ceramics and Japanese prints was loaned to the Jersey Arts Centre.
Conservation	7	21	Items from the Decorative Arts and Fine Art collections have been sent for conservation this quarter in preparation for display and loans (Hans Coper Retrospective). Five swords have been sent for conservation in preparation for re-display in the Yorkshire Museum. A painting has been framed for display; a longcase clock and rocking horse are being conserved for display at the Castle Museum.

## Fundraising

We have been successful in securing funds for the following:

Funding Body	Reason for Application/funds	Amount
Learning Revolution Transformation Fund	Joint educational project with University of York, CVS & the Yorkshire Film Archive	£9,777
Learning Revolution Festival Grant	Informal adult learning events	£57,000
Friends of York Art Gallery	Purchase of the William Etty painting <i>Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball</i>	£44,000
The Art Fund	Purchase of the William Etty painting <i>Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball</i>	£40,000
MLA/VLA Purchase Grant Fund	Purchase of the William Etty painting <i>Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball</i>	£35,000
Tomasso Brothers (sellers)	Purchase of the William Etty painting <i>Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball</i>	£1,000
Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art	Toward the publication of a William Etty exhibition catalogue	£5,200
Garfield Weston Foundation	Yorkshire Museum Letting in the Light project	£200,000
Yorkshire Philosophical Society Donation	Yorkshire Museum Letting in the Light project	£815
Arts Council England	Sashiko Japanese Textiles Exhibition	£40,000
Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation	Sashiko Japanese Textiles Exhibition	£2,000
DCMS/Wolfson Foundation	Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund Round 8 – for the Burton Gallery at YAG	£145,000
Headley Trust	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£15,000
York Glaziers Trust	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£25
University of York	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£1,000
Friends of Harrogate District Museums	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£3,000
Aviva	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£500
David Rymer Charitable Trust	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£500
Yorkshire Architectural & Archaeology Society	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£1,000
Rotary Club of York Vikings	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£500
Council for British Architecture (Yorkshire)	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£250
York Civic Trust	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£1,000
Individual Contributions	Purchase of the Vale of York Viking Hoard	£3,970
	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£606,537</b>

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**Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

10 December 2009

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**2009/10 SECOND MONITORING REPORT – FINANCE & PERFORMANCE****Summary**

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2009/10 and forecasts the outturn position by reference to the service plan, the budget and the performance indicators for all of the services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services.

**Finance & Performance Headlines**

- 2 The summarised financial headlines for this period are:
  - Net projected General Fund overspend of £1,447K
  - Net projected Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspend of £334k
- 3 The summarised performance headlines for this period are:
  - National Performance Indicators – 52% of NPIs (with data available) are improving, with 59% on target. 50% of the LAA indicators (with data available) are improving and 64% are on track to hit their 2009/10 target.
  - Corporate Health – All Staff sickness levels is performing slightly below last years levels for the same time last year (down over 6% on same period last year Apr to Sept), 2 'Major Injuries' H&S incidences.
  - Corporate Strategy – 1 of the 15 milestone actions has been completed and over three quarters are on track to complete this year. Slippage is now being reported for 3 (20%) of the actions.

**Financial Analysis**

- 4 Table 1 below summarises the financial projections for the directorate showing the individual figures for each service plan area and analysing the impact on both the General Fund and the DSG accounts. Further detail on the more significant variations is then provided in the following paragraphs, including a separation in to individual Executive Member Portfolios.

**Table 1: LCCS Financial Projections 2009/10 - Quarter 2**

Service Plan	2009/10 Current Approved Budget			Variation From Approved Net Budget			
	Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net Budget £000	General Fund £000	DSG £000	Total £000	%
Children & Families	17,657	2,524	15,133	+1,404	+225	<b>+1,629</b>	+10.8%
Lifelong Learning and Culture	16,605	6,945	9,660	+407	-	<b>+407</b>	+4.2%
Partnerships and Early Intervention	13,477	8,861	4,616	-301	+150	<b>-151</b>	-3.3%
Resource Management	12,832	4,985	7,847	+653	-	<b>+653</b>	+8.3%
School Improvement and Staff Development	10,600	6,219	4,381	-	+153	<b>+153</b>	+3.5%
School Funding and Contracts	105,897	20,209	85,688	-	-	-	0.0%
Dedicated Schools Grant	161	88,026	-87,865	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>177,229</b>	<b>137,769</b>	<b>39,460</b>	<b>+2,163</b>	<b>+528</b>	<b>+2,691</b>	<b>+6.8%</b>
Savings Round 1 - Already Identified				-436	-144	-580	
Savings Round 2 - New Proposals (at maximum level)				-270	-50	-320	
<b>Net Projection</b>	<b>177,229</b>	<b>137,769</b>	<b>39,460</b>	<b>+1,457</b>	<b>+334</b>	<b>+1,791</b>	<b>+4.5%</b>

'+' indicates an increase in expenditure or a reduction in income

'-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or an increase in income

#### Children & Young People's Services Portfolio

- 5 Children & Young People's Services is currently forecasting a General Fund overspend of £1,867k which is made up of several significant cost pressures across the service. There are numerous overspends across the statutory children's social care budgets totalling £1,404k (12.6% of the total CSC budget). The vast majority of this is due to the continuing increase in the Looked After Children (LAC) population, up from 166 at March 2008 to 199 at March 2009 and 219 at 30 September 2009, an increase of 32% with no accompanying increase the budget. The directorate has managed to contain the financial increase at a much lower level than the percentage increase in LAC by, in part, continuing the expansion of the local fostering programme and thereby reducing the proportion of LAC placed in more expensive out of city placements.
- 6 Home to School Transport budgets are projecting an overspend of £316k due to increased SEN taxi costs, more LAC (as above), more appeals granted by Members and lower than anticipated savings resulting from the NKA transport review.
- 7 There are unbudgeted net additional costs, estimated at £322k in 2009/10, across all LCCS services following the implementation of the new pay and grading system for Local Government Services (LGS) staff. This is almost entirely due to a significant number of staff now being entitled to additional allowance payments for contracted



shift, evening and weekend working which were all contained within basic pay under the previous pay system.

- 8 Other projected overspends elsewhere across the directorate include shortfalls in fee income in Adult Education (£76k) and the Music Service (£65k), and Youth Service activity that has continued to be undertaken even though the external funding supporting it has now ceased (£39k). This is offset by an underspend of £340k due to the staffing structures supporting the new Integrated Children's Centres not yet being fully recruited to.

#### Leisure & Culture Portfolio

- 9 There is currently a £296k overspend projected in Leisure & Culture. The Library Service is currently experiencing an expected £92k shortfall in income and additional costs totalling £35k on publicity, IT hardware and licences. Sport & Active Leisure are predicting an £125k overspend, linked in part to shortfalls in income at Edmund Wilson Swimming Pool and increased energy costs due to higher prices for steam and increased electricity usage at Yearsley Swimming Pool.

#### Dedicated Schools Grant

- 10 In the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) area there is a projected overspend of £528k against a budget of £87,865k. Major variations include; Out of City SEN Placements (+£333k), Nursery Education Grants (+£230k) and Behaviour Support Service (+£153k). These are offset by increased Inter Authority SEN Recoupment Income (-£92k) and Early Years staffing underspends (-£80k).
- 11 Due to the nature of the DSG, any underspend must be carried forward and added to the following year's funding with overspends either being funded from the general fund or reducing the following year's funding allocation. Following the convention used in previous years, the £528k overspend would reduce the level of DSG funding available in 2010/11.

#### Options For Further Directorate Savings

- 12 One of the key actions that was proposed by LCCS as a response to the current pressures in the Directorate was to undertake a review of the Children's Social Care budgets, to determine how resources were being deployed. Work on this has focused on the number of Looked After Children (LAC) in the authority and how these numbers have moved over the last three years, compared to the budget and actual expenditure. The results of this work have already been reported separately and have served to highlight that, although the number of Looked After Children has risen significantly since 2006, the budget has not been increased in response to this rise. It also shows that the unit cost per child of supporting these children has not increased over this period, and in real terms has probably decreased.
- 13 LCCS budgets are currently projected to overspend by a total of £2,691k (£2,163k within General Fund [GF] services and £528k within Dedicated Schools Grant [DSG] services). In response to this position the directorate has already taken early action to identify one-off in year savings for 2009/10. All Service Managers were required to identify savings totalling 2% of their budgets. This has produced budget savings totalling £480k (£336k GF & £144k DSG) from:

	GF £000	DSG £000	Total £000
Staffing savings & vacancy management measures	169	8	177
Reprioritisation of grant funding & expenditure	75	84	159
Targeted increases in income from traded services	28	40	68
Reduced repairs & maintenance work in the city's parks & open spaces	28		28
Other cuts in miscellaneous expenditure budgets	36	12	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>480</b>

- 14 In addition LCCS has gained agreement from the Schools Forum to fund an additional £100k of SEN Transport costs from the Schools Budget. The result of this action is to reduce the net projected overspend for LCCS being reported at quarter 2 down by a total of £580k to £2,111k. (£1,727 GF & £384 DSG).

#### Options For Further Directorate Savings

- 15 LCCS has now been set an indicative target of finding a further £580k of savings in the remainder of this financial year. Given the known pressures across the two portfolios, and having due regard to all statutory services, any further reduction in the overspend will only be possible by moving to suspend or curtail activity that will impact directly on service delivery. In light of this, the directorate management team (DMT) have proposed a number of further actions that could contribute to a reduction in overall net expenditure from that currently being forecast. Given the nature of these actions it has not been possible to calculate the exact saving that would be generated. All of the actions could have a detrimental impact on service delivery.

**a) Revised decision making on high cost child placement and transport arrangements (£25k - £50k).**

The directorate delegation scheme will be changed to ensure that all decisions on Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements, external special school placements and high cost transport arrangements are only made by the director. Whilst there is no suggestion that the current levels of delegation are contributing to increased costs, this will ensure rigorous and thorough challenge before each placement is confirmed. In addition the director will undertake a full review of all existing external placements to ensure all options for local arrangements have been fully exhausted.

**b) Complete recruitment freeze, including temporary, relief, sessional and agency staff (£20k - £40k).**

There may need to be some exceptions where for example safeguarding responsibilities could be compromised; where income streams or grant funding would be jeopardised or where the freeze will result in the unacceptable closure of a significant service. Otherwise recruitment would be frozen. All exceptions will have to be approved on an individual basis by a member of the DMT.

**c) Expenditure controls on all general office, equipment, training, travel and conference expenditure (£50k - £80k):**

- a. Moratorium on the use of taxis for staff travel
- b. Moratorium on all travel and conferences outside of York

- c. Moratorium on the booking of non-CYC venues for meetings etc.
- d. Moratorium on purchasing of all office and IT equipment

Again, there may need to be a small number of specific exceptions but each of these will have to be agreed in advance by the relevant Assistant Director.

**d) Further review of grant income (£75k - £100k).**

Significant work has already been done to review and reprioritise grant funding and expenditure. This will be continued with a view to maximising the use of new and existing grant streams to support mainstream expenditure areas.

- 14 The above actions could be expected to produce further savings in 2009/10 of between £170k and £270k on general fund services (with a further £30k to £50k within the DSG). This would result in revised projected overspends for the year of:

General Fund	£1,447 to £1,547
DSG	£334k to £354k

**Performance Indicators**

- 15 Due to the frequency of collections the majority of PIs are not reported at a quarterly interval and as such this 2nd quarter report will only cover 30% of the PIs, where it is possible there are a small number of annual results given but it needs to be noted that these are estimated and as such will change.
- 16 Overall there are 57 indicators with data available at this point in the year. Of those where comparison is possible, 57% are on track to hit their 2009/10 target and 50% are improving compared to last year's performance.

	Total reported this month	On target	Improving	Declining	Stable
<b>All Indicators</b>	57 of 150 (38%)	30 of 53 (57%)	28 of 56 (50%)	21 of 56 (38%)	7 of 56 (13%)
<b>National Indicators</b>	31 of 87 (36%)	14 of 29 (48%)	14 of 30 (47%)	14 of 30 (47%)	2 of 30 (7%)
<b>LAA/priority Indicators</b>	3 of 17 (18%)	0 of 2 (0%)	0 of 2 (0%)	2 of 2 (100%)	0 of 2 (0%)

Note: Not all NPIs reported can be assessed for improvement (e.g. no 08/09 outturn). Similarly, some do not have targets set for 2009/10 as this is the first year they are being collected.

**Performance exceptions**

- 17 Due to the high number of PIs LCCS are responsible for, attention is only drawn to the following indicators shown below which are reporting significant performance issues i.e. good improvement, showing a decline in performance or forecasting to fall short of their target, it should be noted that some of these were previously reported as such and some of the detail for those are not shown again, but is available in previous reports.
- 18 In general it must be pointed out that as in many of the social services PIs small cohort can and do distort our results:

### **Improvements**

- NPI 62 - % of children in care having 3 or more moves of placement, is showing continued good performance, and if trends continue could significantly improve on past years performance.
- NPI 103 – Continued exceptional performance in completing final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks
- LLC17 – Significantly more children taking part in the summer reading, with the highest ever recorded figures.
- CYP10.1 – Greater numbers than expected continue to attend the targeted parenting programmes, and notably fathers' attendance has increased.
- CYPL2 b and c – Increased contacts to the YorOK Index and CAFs completed, due to increased number of trained practitioners, review of integrated working strategy, the YorOK broker pilot, CAF champions and deemed CAF projects.

### **Decline, unlikely to meet targets**

- NPI 45 - of young offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training aged 10-17 has dropped to 56.9%, this indicator is split into 2 categories: pre- and post-statutory school (SSA) age provision. The provision for school age children is well above target at 78% but the SSA group has suffered recently, achieving 44% in Q1. Recently the post-SSA group has not responded and is now mirroring NPI 117 (overall NEET group) as the recession bites. The post-SSA group is much the larger group and although some targeted work is underway the YOT will press the issue through the NEET strategy arrangements, as this is a wider problem than YOT effectiveness
- NPI 65 - Re-registration of children to the CP (see Qrt. 1 report).
- NPI 67 - CP cases reviews in timescale as slipped this quarter, meaning the 100% target will not be achieved, unfortunately 3 conferences were delayed (out of 64) due to unexpected sicknesses and no substitute was available at such notice.
- NPI 68 - Current trends indicate that this PI will not meet its year end targets of % of referrals to children's social care services going on to initial assessments, it should be noted that this PI was significantly impacted by short term resource issues and it is hoped that by the third quarter improvements will be seen.
  - NPIs 73 & 76: Literacy & numeracy (KS2). (Qrt 1 report)
  - NPI 75: GCSEs. The % of York children achieving 5 or more A\*-Cs (Qrt 1 report)
- NPI 111 (LAA local) – Higher than expected first time entrants into the Youth Justice system was recorded in the 1st Qrt, there is no evidence to suggest data quality problems. Therefore seeking advice from NY Police HQ, BCU commander and SYP as to possible explanations.
- NPI 112 (LAA) - Although interim conception rates are showing the lowest recorded for 2 quarters (2008) since 2004, these figures need to be treated with caution as there are marked seasonal variances; it is therefore still suggested that the required reduction cannot be achieved by 2010. (Qrt 1 report)
- NPI 117 (LAA) – Whilst this quarter's performance on NEET is more in line with the profile for this time of year (5.2% compared to 5.1% target), it is unlikely the

yearly target of 3.5% can be achieved in this current economic climate. (Qrt 1 report). It should be noted that we still remain in the top quartile in the PwC benchmark.

- LLC 10 - As per the last report the number of visits to the YORTIME website is unlikely to be achieved. The site has undergone some updating, but it is unlikely that this PI will be brought back on track until the current project is completed to upgrade the current Lifelong Learning and Culture web presence with web2 enabled technology. (Qrt 1 report)
- LLC 16 – The target for new library memberships was based on the phenomenal success of last year during the national year of reading. Since the level of membership is already high (80% compared to 60% nationally) it is unlikely that this level of new memberships can be sustained. Attention will now turn instead to targeting groups at risk of exclusion and to increasing the range and depth of activity of new and long-standing members.

#### **Staff related performance**

- 19 Whilst it is noted that the latest sickness stats 3.26fte (Apr to Sep inc) show a better performance than the same time last year (3.49fte), when looking at LCCS (excluding schools). Current stats put LCCS directorate as one of the highest staff turnover rate in the council, significantly more than this time last year, standing at 5.9% compared to 3.14% for the same time last year.

#### **Overview of key projects and actions contained within the Corporate Strategy and CYPP 2009/10**

- 20 Reference should be made to the monthly corporate monitor template, but in short we are on track with of 11 of the 15 allocated to LCCS, with 1 already completed. The 3 not on track are:
- Develop and hold a Young Peoples Festival by Dec 2009, involving 90% of cultural agencies - As the LAA bid was unsuccessful we will not be able to meet the stated deadline but work on establishing a Young Peoples Festival task group to try and secure other funding bids in underway, and we will instead revert to the original plan to run events in the summer of 2010, with Parliament street booked for June 2010.
  - Respond positively to the economic downturn by reducing the number of NEETS by targeted interventions with 16-18 year olds and the provision of wider range of qualifications for all by Mar 2010 - Continued contribution from YPS to the broker pilot. NEET strategy action plan approved.
  - Capable Guardians to commission at least 50 restorative justice and young people's service interventions by March 2010 with children at risk of becoming first time offenders: - Recruitment to Capable Guardian development post completed, initial scoping meeting being arranged.
- 21 This DMT meeting monitors progress against the key priorities within the LCCS Directorate Plan, CYPP, and LL&C Plan, at this stage there are a number of problems identified with delayed actions but these are expected to be brought in line by the end of the plan's life and as such there is nothing of major consequence to be reported, it should be noted that these regular DMT performance and financial monitor meetings are well supported by detailed action planning at service manager level should further explanation be needed.

## Risks

22 The following risks remain as in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter:

- As with any new inspection regime, doubt will surround the outcome of the new 'unannounced inspections', especially as evidence from the first inspections carried out in other authorities as indicated that the bar has been raised in line with the obvious high profile nature 'safeguarding of children' has. We are confident with the new arrangements for Referrals and Assessments now in place of a positive outcome when eventually Ofsted do carry out the new unannounced inspection.
- The new Education White paper may well impact a number of areas within this Directorate e.g. issues of future funding to the LA where the Paper sees the LA as a commissioner and not a provider of services.
- Consequences of schools Ofsted inspections being overly weighted by school attainment results. Some schools may drop down an assessment level as a result of the new regime, which may impact upon future CAA results
- Concerns around ours and schools statutory duties to supply an education service may be under strain should the LA suffer from a Swine Flu. DMT agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss 'emergency planning' options.
- The in-year budget round will have significant implications to LCCS being able to maintain its high performance across all its services.

23 The following risks are new for 2nd 1<sup>st</sup> quarter:

- 3 members of the Sport & Active Leisure Team have left this quarter following the fall-out of external funding meaning that successful programmes such as "Fit as a Fiddle" – see below – will now cease.
- The number of EAL referrals has risen by 50 this term which has strained resources.

### **Items worthy of mention in regard to excellent performance recorded this 2nd quarter are:**

- New 'interim' A&I arrangements operational from 23.09.09. Multi agency communication has taken place, and electronic 'signposting' from old 4141 number redirecting referrers to new 1900 number.
- Country Classroom now established with positive evaluations of outcomes for first cohort of young people, this initiative has resulted in fewer pupils with SEN being placed in more expensive out of authority provision.
- New targeted programmes have been run including 3 at Oaklands: Bumpercise, Mummy & Buggy, and Buggytone, and the Fit as a Fiddle programme designed to encourage people over 50s to take part in more physical activity, attracted over 100 new participants
- LL&C have been successful in an £80k bid to the Transformation Fund provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to kick start the "Learning Revolution". The funding will provide a Community Learning Centre in York Explore (taking the total project funding for the latter to close to £1m).

- Cross service working group are planning for a new spring festival that will encompass the spirit of the Lord Mayor's Day parade. Dates agreed 5th and 6th June. This is the start of the programme building to 2012. Walk York 2012 proposal pitched to I Move regional group with encouraging results.
- Major work has been undertaken to prepare for the NEEC 2010 Conference in January next year. All the components are now in place, and the sponsorship targets have been exceeded.
- Network of CAF Champions in partner organisation now established to support their own practitioners in the use of Integrated Working tools and processes to ensure early intervention and prevention.
- Take Part Pathfinder Project, in partnership with Neighbourhood Management Unit to increase the involvement of young people in local democracy, is now in place.
- Contract now signed with new Broadband provider Pinacl – transition underway – new infrastructure for schools to be in place by Sept 2010.
- Completion of Parent and Carers survey to provide LA and school with views about schools – reports provided to schools.
- The new Joseph Rowntree School in on track and on budget to open in February 2010.
- Oaklands Pool (Energise) nearing completion.
- York received excellent results at KS1, KS4 and A levels. All areas improved at KS1 with significant rises of 3% and 4% for reading and writing respectively. At KS4, the percentage increase for 5A\*-C was 5% and including English and Maths was 6%. This figure of 60 % for 5A\*-C including English and Maths was the highest in the region. Individual schools did very well at A level. However KS2 was disappointing. Although results were above or in-line with national levels the decrease in reading impacted on the overall English and English / Maths figures. However, it was pleasing to see the 1% increase in maths after the dip of 2008. As usual in all Key Stages the City figures mask individual schools' successes and underperformance but the success of Burnholme Community College and York High School deserve particular mention.
- The Community Partnership Project has worked very well in certain areas, engaging parents and members of the community. The Project has also facilitated closer working between different service areas within the Council. Events have been promoted through Your Ward.

### **Corporate Priorities**

- 24 The information included in this report demonstrates progress on achieving the council's corporate strategy (2009-12) and the priorities set out within it.

### **Implications**

- 25 The financial implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no significant human resources, equalities, legal, information technology, property or crime & disorder implications arising from this report.

**Risk Management**

26 The overall directorate budget is under significant pressure. This is particularly acute within children's social care and home to school transport budgets. The work with Northgate Kendric Ash may identify some efficiency savings in services that could be used to offset these cost pressures but these will not come through to any significant extent in 2009/10. It will also be important to understand the level of investment needed to hit performance targets and meet rising demand for key statutory services. Managing within the approved budget for 2009/10 is therefore going to be extremely difficult and the management team will continue to review expenditure across the directorate.

**Recommendations**

27 As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest finance and performance position for 2009/10.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

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Tel No. 554225

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Peter Dwyer  
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's  
Services

Margi Charlson  
Performance Management Officer  
Tel No. 554224

**Report  
Approved**

**Date** 01 December 2009

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers**

Second Quarter finance and performance monitor for 2009/10, Executive 22 September 2009

**Annexes**

None



## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2009-10

Chairs Briefing Date	Report Publication Date	Meeting Date	Work Programme
	7 July 09	15 July 09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report on Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees - Terms of Reference</li> <li>2. Corporate Strategy – Key Performance Indicators &amp; Actions for 2009/10 – Understanding the corporate priorities relevant to the Committee’s ‘terms of reference’ in order to establish a baseline for making proposals for changes to the Corporate Priorities in 2010/11</li> <li>3. 2008/09 Year End Outturn Report</li> <li>4. York Theatre Royal Service Level Agreement Performance Update</li> <li>5. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan – Performance Update</li> </ol>
16/17 Sept 4:30pm	22 Sept 09	1 Oct 09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Quarter Monitoring Report</li> <li>2. Workplan, Extract from Executive Forward Plan &amp; Submitted Scrutiny Topic on ‘Casual Play Opportunities’</li> <li>3. Update report on previously deferred scrutiny topic ‘14-19 Diplomas’</li> <li>4. Consultation Report on Draft Heritage Strategy</li> </ol>
		30 Nov 09 6pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation on Playbuilder data in support of suggested topic on Casual Play Opportunities</li> <li>2. Presentation on national picture in regard to ‘Looked After’ children &amp; analysis of CYC’s current overspend</li> </ol>
25/26 Nov 4:30pm	1 Dec 09	10 Dec 09 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Theatre Royal Performance Update Report 2009-10</li> <li>2. Yorkshire Museums Trust Performance Update Report 2009-10</li> <li>3. CYC Second Quarter Monitoring Report</li> <li>4. Update on implementation of recommendations arising from previous Cultural Quarter Scrutiny Review</li> <li>5. Scoping Report on Suggested Scrutiny Topic – ‘Casual Play Opportunities’</li> <li>6. Attendance of Executive Member for Children &amp; Young People’s Services and Chairs of <a href="#">York@Large</a> and Learning City. Plus, possible attendance of Executive Member for Leisure, Culture &amp; Social Inclusion (awaiting confirmation)</li> </ol>
13/14 Jan 4:30pm	19 Jan 2010	28 Jan 2010 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Consultation</li> <li>2. Audit Commission Report on Use of Resources</li> <li>3. Information report on refurbishment of Main Library</li> <li>4. Possible attendance of Executive Member for Leisure, Culture &amp; Social Inclusion (awaiting confirmation)</li> </ol>

24/25 Feb 4:30pm	2 Mar 2010	11 Mar 2010 5pm	1. Third Quarter Monitoring Report 2. Annual Report from relevant Local Strategic Partners
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FORWARD PLAN ITEM	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Executive
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	15/12/09
<b>Keyword:</b>	Education;
<b>Item Type:</b>	Executive Decision - of 'Normal' Importance
<b>Title of Report:</b>	14-19 Reforms
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Purpose of report: The report will summarise the LA's 14-19 Plan (a statutory appendix of the CYPP) which sets out priorities for developments to 2015 and takes account of the transfer of 16-19 funding and associated commissioning role to the LA in April 2010.</p> <p>Members are asked to: 1. Endorse the strategic approach set out in the 14-19 plan and arrangements associated with the 16-19 funding transfer. 2. In support of a major strand of the 14-19 plan, agree that the Council play a leading role in the development of an enlarged Apprenticeship programme for 16-19 year olds in the City.</p>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards;
<b>Report Writer:</b>	John Thompson
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Carol Runciman
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services
<b>Contact Details:</b>	John Thompson
	john.thompson@york.gov.uk
<b>Implications</b>	Equalities
<b>Level of Risk:</b>	04-08 Regular monitoring required
<b>Reason Key:</b>	
<b>Making Representations:</b>	N/A
<b>Process:</b>	N/A
<b>Consultees:</b>	N/A
<b>Background Documents:</b>	Committee Report for 14-19 Reforms
<b>Call-In</b>	
	If this item is called-in either pre or post decision, it will be considered by Scrutiny Management Committee on: 21/12/09
<b><u>Internal Clearance Process</u></b>	
<i>Pre-Decision</i>	
<i>By Chief Officers at</i>	CMT on: 02/12/09
<i>By Political Group Leaders on:</i>	

**Call-In****Internal Clearance Process***Pre-Decision**By Chief Officers at* CMT*on:* 02/12/09*By Political Group Leaders on:*

## FORWARD PLAN ITEM

**Meeting:** Executive

**Meeting Date:** 15/12/09

**Keyword:** Property; Executive Decision - a 'Key Issue' - decision leading to savings or expenditure of £500,000 or above;

**Item Type:** Executive Decision - of 'Normal' Importance

**Title of Report:** Former Lowfields School, Dijon Avenue, Acomb

**Description:** Purpose of report: To ask for approval of demolition of the school buildings prior disposal of the site. And to approve that the work is funded from prudential borrowing.

Members are asked to: Approve both the recommendations.

**Wards Affected:** Acomb Ward; Westfield Ward;

**Report Writer:** Neil Hindhaugh      **Deadline for Report:** 03/12/09

**Lead Member:** Councillor Andrew Waller

**Lead Director:** Director of People and Improvement

**Contact Details:** Neil Hindhaugh

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**Implications** Financial

**Level of Risk:** 01-03 Acceptable

**Reason Key:** A decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure, or making savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. The savings or expenditure are significant if they are equal to or greater than £500,000 or equal to or greater than £100,000 where the savings or expenditure exceeds 10% of the budget for the service plan area whichever is the less. Expenditure in excess of these levels will not constitute a key decision if such expenditure is made as part of the

implementation of a decision which itself was a key decision e.g. the award of a contract.

**Making Representations:** N/A

**Process:** Through the Corporate Asset Management Group

**Consultees:** N/A

**Background Documents:** Committee Report for Former Lowfields School, Dijon Avenue, Acomb

**Call-In**

If this item is called-in either pre or post decision, it will be considered by Scrutiny Management Committee on: 21/12/09

**Internal Clearance Process**

**Pre-Decision**

By Chief Officers at QCG (No meeting - Circulation Deadline only) on: 26/11/09

By Political Group Leaders on:

By Strategic Policy Panel (if required) on:

**Post-Decision**

By Strategic Policy Panel (if Required) on:



**FORWARD PLAN ITEM**

**Meeting:** Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services

**Meeting Date:** 12/01/10                      **Keyword:** Leisure and culture;

**Item Type:** Executive Member Decision - of 'Normal' importance

**Title of Report:** Twenty first century learning, twenty first century library: Staffing structures

**Description:** Purpose of report: To agree a new staffing structure for the Adult and Community Education Service to be effective from 1st January 2010

Members are asked to: Agree a revised staffing structure

**Wards Affected:** All Wards;

**Report Writer:** Fiona Williams,                      **Deadline for Report:** 24/11/09  
Alistair Gourlay

**Lead Member:** Councillor Carol Runciman

**Lead Director:** Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services

**Contact Details:** Fiona Williams, Alistair Gourlay

fiona.williams@york.gov.uk, alistair.gourlay@york.gov.uk

**Implications** Resources

**Level of Risk:** 01-03 Acceptable                      **Reason Key:**

**Making Representations:** N/A

**Process:** N/A

**Consultees:** N/A

**Background Documents:** Committee Report for Twenty first century learning, twenty first century library: Staffing structures

**Call-In**

If this item is called-in either pre or post decision, it will 23/11/09  
be considered by Scrutiny Management Committee on:

**Internal Clearance Process**Pre-Decision

By Chief Officers at

on:

By Political Group Leaders on:

By Strategic Policy Panel (if required) on:

Post-Decision

By Strategic Policy Panel (if Required) on:

**FORWARD PLAN ITEM****Meeting:** Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services**Meeting Date:** 09/03/10**Keyword:** Education;**Item Type:** Executive Member Decision - of 'Normal' importance**Title of Report:** Appointments of Local Authority School Governors

**Description:** Purpose of report: · This report provides information about the current position with regard to vacancies for LA seats on governing bodies, lists current nominations for those vacancies and requests the appointment, or re-appointment, of the listed nominees· The affect of making these appointments will be greater effectiveness and efficiency of school governing bodies in discharging their statutory duties.· Effects will be seen immediately after appointment as nominees take up their governor roles.

Members are asked to: agree the appointment of new LA governor nominees; and to agree the reappointment of existing governors whose terms of office are ending or have ended and who would like to stand for a further term of office

**Wards Affected:** All Wards;**Report Writer:** Sue Pagliaro**Deadline for Report:** 23/02/10**Lead Member:** Councillor Carol Runciman**Lead Director:** Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services**Contact Details:** Sue Pagliaro

sue.pagliaro@york.gov.uk

**Implications****Level of Risk:** 01-03 Acceptable**Reason Key:****Making Representations:** N/A**Process:** N/A**Consultees:** N/A**Background Documents:** Committee Report for Appointments of Local Authority School Governors**Call-In**

If this item is called-in either pre or post decision, it will be considered by Scrutiny Management Committee on: 22/03/10

**Internal Clearance Process**Pre-Decision

By Chief Officers at

on:





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## **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**10 December 2009**

Report of the Head of Civic Democratic & Legal Services

### **Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously Completed Scrutiny Review on Cultural Quarter**

#### **Summary**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of recommendations made as a result of the completed Cultural Quarter scrutiny review.

#### **Background**

2. The Cultural Quarter scrutiny review was completed in February 2009 and the recommendations arising were approved by the Executive on 14 April 2009.

#### **Consultation**

3. The Head of Arts & Culture has provided the update information contained within Annex A, and will be present at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

#### **Options**

4. Members may decide to sign off any individual recommendations where implementation has been completed, and can:
  - a. request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officers at a future meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations relating to the above review or;
  - b. agree to receive no further updates on this review

#### **Corporate Strategy**

5. The process of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of approved recommendations relating to this completed scrutiny review, will contribute to making York a 'City of Culture' in line with the council's priority to:

'Inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country, by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all'

### Implications

6. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ITT or Other implications connected to this report.

### Risk Management

7. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

### Recommendations

8. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and agree which of the recommendations can be written off as fully implemented.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which have still to be implemented.

### Contact Details

**Author:**

Melanie Carr  
Scrutiny Officer  
Scrutiny Services  
01904 552063

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Alison Lowton  
Acting Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services  
01904 552001

Report Approved



Date

27 November 2009

Wards Affected:

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:**

**Annex A** – Update on Cultural Quarter Scrutiny Review

Board and Topic	Rec No.	Recommendation as approved by the Executive on 14 April 2009	Update on Recommendations as of December 2009
<b>Cultural Quarter Ad-hoc Scrutiny Review</b> Gill Cooper	1	<p>That City of York Council takes the lead in the comprehensive business plan and design masterplan for this area, especially in terms of implementing any changes to the public realm works, pedestrian links etc between the various investment areas. The Executive agreed that the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee report is to be input to the Local Development Framework Team for inclusion with the final submission document which is scheduled for public examination in 2010.</p>	<p>The findings of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee report were sent to the LDF Framework team and as a result the Cultural Quarter area has been identified as a key area of interest within the LDF and the City Centre Area Action Plan. Work on the City Centre Area Action Plan is being taken forward by the establishment of a new York Renaissance Team.</p>
	2	<p>That, with the backing of partner organisations*, the Chief Executive of City of York Council opens negotiations with Yorkshire Forward and other appropriate public bodies with regard to funding the proposed cultural master plan for the city and seeking major investment for realising the opportunities available for improvements to the public realm and civic spaces.</p> <p><i>(*Yorkshire Museums Trust, Rushbond PLC, York Theatre Royal, York Minster, National Railway Museum, Kings Manor (University of York), Visit York, York @ Large and appropriate departments within the local authority).</i> Also,</p> <p>that the Chief Executive and Leader include reference to the Cultural Quarter' in discussions with Yorkshire Forward and the Development of the Geographic Programme for York, and that there is a clear reference document on plans for a Cultural Quarter.</p>	<p>Through the discussions with Yorkshire Forward on the Geographic Programme for York support has been identified for specific projects within the Cultural Quarter but also for the production of a economic masterplan for the city. This work is being progressed through the Renaissance Team (with funding from English Heritage and Yorkshire Forward) and the Cultural Quarter area has been included as a focus within their brief. They will also be producing a design masterplan for the city centre.</p>

Board and Topic	Rec No.	Recommendation as approved by the Executive on 14 April 2009	Update on Recommendations as of December 2009
<b>Cultural Quarter Ad-hoc Scrutiny Review</b> Gill Cooper	3	<p>In view of the fact that development of the York North West site will create more traffic both vehicular and pedestrian:</p> <p>i. The Committee recommends that substantial improvements be made to the area known as 'Marble Arch' (both road and pedestrian tunnels).</p> <p>ii. The Committee recommends that City of York Council should seek to agree a new pedestrian/cycle river crossing (linking the National Railway Museum and Museum Gardens) as part of the York North West development plans. Also, that the scrutiny report is included in the consultation process for the the York North West Area Action Plan as part of the LDF work in this area.</p>	<p>Progress on finding a developer for York North West Area Action plan has been affected by the current economic climate. Within the current brief out to developers the Cultural Quarter concept is clearly indicated and the need for a new crossing of the river and improvements to Marble Arch detailed.</p>
	4	<p>That the Head of Arts &amp; Culture prepares the relevant documentation to propose York as a British City of Culture, should this proposed government initiative go ahead. Also that a further report comes to Executive in the next 4 months, or after details have been published by DCMS, to detail the funding and officer time resource in proposing York as a British City of Culture. That this report details to the Executive the financial cost, and financial and job creation opportunities.</p>	<p>Over the summer the bid criteria emerging from the DCMS were reviewed. The DCMS criteria clearly required that any city applying for the funding should be delivering its regeneration activity through Arts and Culture. York's regeneration activity has largely been progressed through Science City York. We also failed to meet the criteria on continued improvement of funding to Arts and Culture and the ability to promise that this area would receive continued improvement in funding through until 2013. Therefore we did not meet the criteria for making a bid to UK City of Culture.</p>

	5	That a wider strategy for 'Cultural Development Areas' within the city as a whole, be pursued by York @ Large to engage other cultural attractions and leisure providers e.g. a Castle Area. Also that the York@Large board receives the report with a request that it responds to the Executive in the next four months.	A review of the LDF has been undertaken by York @ Large with responses made via the consultation process. York @ Large has considered the outcomes of the scrutiny and through is Cultural Quarter Sub group has taken the recommendations forward. In respect of the wider strategy for cultural development areas within the city this has been included in its workplan and the council is being urged to adopt the new Culture and Sports Planning toolkit developed by CBE, MLA, Sports Council and Arts Council.
<b>Board and Topic</b>	<b>Rec No.</b>	<b>Recommendation as approved by the Executive on 14 April 2009</b>	<b>Update on Recommendations as of December 2009</b>
Cultural Quarter Ad-hoc Scrutiny Review Gill Cooper	6	That the boundary of the proposed 'Cultural Quarter' be used for investment purposes only. That a fixed boundary is not the most appropriate for a 'Cultural Quarter' in the long term and the position of a permeable boundary should, therefore, be revisited by York @ Large at a future date. Also that the York@Large board receives the report with a request that it responds to the Executive in the next four months.	York @ Large has agreed that the boundary of the Cultural Quarter should be permeable and to this end has invited York St John's University to send representatives to the Cultural Quarter sub group.
	7	That York @ Large be requested to revisit the name 'Cultural Quarter' as part of the work on the comprehensive business plan and the group should consider either a geographical or historical name for the area. Also that the York@Large board receives the report with a request that it responds to the Executive in the next four months.	York @ Large has agreed that the naming of the area needs more consideration, but without funding to undertake this exercise currently available recommends it that we continue to use the Cultural Quarter title as an effective working title. However any future business planning or feasibility consultation would need to consider appropriate branding.

	<p>8 That the recommendations of the report commissioned by City of York Council to look at the future of York City Archives be fully implemented to ensure that the Archives are suitably funded and are presented as a key part of the 'Cultural Quarter' area. Also, that officers to establish a group to look at application for funding sources for the relocation of the Archives from the Art Gallery to the Central Library to involve the Chief Executive of the York Museums Trust.</p>	<p>Recommendations on the Archives have been agreed by Executive. There will be an initial move of the Archives, to increase accessibility, to the new York Explore by Spring 2010. Second phase of the relocation of the Archives will be dependant on a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The outline bid to HLF will be submitted by early 2010.</p>
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## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

10 December 2009

### Review of Casual Play Opportunities - Scoping Report

#### Purpose of Report

1. This report presents information in support of a proposed review on the available provision of casual play opportunities across the city, and asks Members to agree how they wish to progress this review.

#### Background

2. At the last meeting of this Committee in October 2009, Members considered a possible scrutiny topic submitted by Cllr Looker (see Annex A) in relation to casual play opportunities for young children, with a focus on the city centre. In deciding to proceed with the review, Members agreed that it should include a comparison between a city centre area and a village location, and should focus on play opportunities (for children within the age range of 5-11 years) rather than just play equipment.
3. In order to gather some relevant background information for the review, the Committee met on 30 November 2009 to receive a presentation by the Head of Parks & Open Spaces on the Government's 'Playbuilder' Initiative and relevant data results for York, and the council's policy on play.

#### Opportunities for 'Play' in York

4. City of York Council has its own policy on play, called 'Taking Play Forward' – see copy at Annex B. Although this is currently being revised, it makes clear recommendations for developing play in the City and includes measures to monitor the impact and development of play through its 9 Better Play Objectives, which are:
  - extending choice and control
  - need to test boundaries
  - need to offer risk and keep children safe
  - maximise the range of play opportunities
  - fosters independence and self esteem
  - respect for others and opportunity for social interaction
  - fosters wellbeing, healthy growth and a capacity to learn
  - meets the necessary legislative requirements
  - involves children and young people in decision making

5. 'Playbuilder' – A Government Initiative

The Playbuilder programme is investing £235 million nationally as part of the Government's commitment to the play agenda, along with the launch of the recent national Play Strategy and Children's Plan. The initiative is intended to develop public, open access, outdoor play spaces close to where children live that are safe, exciting, stimulating and accessible to all, as well as promoting active, imaginative and adventurous play and targeting predominately the 8 - 13 year age range. This will directly link into York's play strategy and will assist in raising the standard of play provision across the city.

6. York has been allocated £1,165,391 from the Government Playbuilder Project, consisting of £1,120,453 capital and £44,938 revenue. The grant comes with a stringent monitoring regime from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF), which is being undertaken by the regional office of Play England. It is overseen by a multi agency steering group in York representing Play, Parks, Young Peoples Service, Extended Schools, City Development, Transport Safety, Grants and Partnership and Neighbourhood Management, North Yorkshire Police, PACT and CVS and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's services.
7. The plan for York, is to build 22 new and upgraded play sites across the city, each to be developed in consultation, and with the participation of local children and young people, families, communities and representatives as appropriate.
8. The primary tool for the selection of the recommended sites was the PPG17 Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation audit, undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework process. It was supported by feedback from the consultation carried out in preparation for the new Children and Young People's Plan, local representation and information from Ward Committees.
9. The selection process identified where equipped play areas and teenaged facilities existed in the city and then identified the gaps in provision. Where existing facilities were identified, they were assessed looking at both quality and accessibility issues. From those areas with gaps in provision, suitable sites were selected based on the following criteria:
  - a) those areas of the city where there was no or under provision for 8 - 13 year olds
  - b) those sites which scored lower in quality
  - c) where there was community support to help design and possibly deliver the scheme
  - d) where a suitable site was available to deliver the scheme within the DCSF timetable.
10. As a result of the selection process 11 new play areas, and 11 refurbished or expanded play areas were identified – see full list shown at Annex C. The first two of these new play sites have now been completed and are in use (Elvington & Naburn) and the site at Bishopthorpe has been completed and will be officially



opened for use in the new year. Outside of those 22 areas selected, there remains a number of areas with gaps in provision.

## **Analysis**

11. The data gathered in support of the 'Playbuilder' Initiative focuses on children aged 8-13 years. As the Committee have previously agreed to focus this review on play provision for children aged 5-11 years, they should bear in mind that the data may not provide all of the necessary evidence to support this review. In addition the Committee may wish to consider extending the age range covered by this review, to children aged 5-13years.
12. The Committee have also previously agreed to focus on three specific areas of the city - one urban, one suburban and one village (yet to be identified). As the data gathered in support of the 'Playbuilder' Initiative has already identified where there are gaps in provision across the city, it is suggested that the Committee consider those which fall outside of the 22 sites chosen (as shown in Annex D – to follow), in order to identify the areas to be focused on as part of this review.

## **Remit & Timetable For Review**

13. Having considered the information contained within the presentation and the information gathered to date by individual Committee members, the Committee now need to agree a firm remit for the review with a number of objectives – see suggestion below

### Remit

To participate in the consultation on the revisions to CYC's Play Policy, and carry out a comparison of the play opportunities for 5-13yr olds, within a number of residential areas/wards (one city centre, one suburban and one village)

### Objectives

- i. to understand the different types of provision suitable for each type of setting
  - ii. to assess the potential space within the identified areas/wards that could be utilised for play
  - iii. to recommend a strategy for the provision of suitable play opportunities within the identified areas
  - iv. To be consulted on the revisions to the Council's play policy
14. Once the remit has been agreed, Members will need to decide:
    - a) a timeframe for completion of the review
    - b) which areas of the city the review will focus on (through consideration of the data gathered in support of the Playbuilder Initiative)
    - c) methods for progressing the review - below are a number of suggestions:
      - Identify whether it would be beneficial to co-opt anyone on to the Committee, for the life of the review

- How long the review should take and whether any additional meetings are required to progress the review, outside of those already in the diary
- the Committee as a whole to carry out a number of visits in the identified wards/areas
- Identify any further consultation required and how that consultation should take place i.e. via a survey, by holding a consultation event(s) or by inviting specific individuals to attend future meetings e.g. voluntary organisations who provide play activities etc
- Gather information on imaginative examples of play opportunities in place elsewhere, both nationally and from outside the UK

## **Options**

15. Having considered all of the information provided as part of the presentation received on 30 November 2009 and within this report, Members may choose to:
- a) amend and/or agree the remit suggested in paragraph 12 above
  - b) agree and/or identify alternative methods for progressing the review, outside of those listed in paragraph 13 above
  - c) if necessary, agree any additional formal (or informal) meeting dates required

## **Implications**

16. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal Crime & Disorder, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

## **Corporate Strategy**

17. A review of this topic would support the Council's aims to make York a 'City of Culture' i.e.

'We want to inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country. We will achieve this by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all.'

18. A successful review of this topic could also support the Council's aim to make York a 'Healthy City' i.e.

'We want to be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives. For this to happen we will make sure that people are supported to make healthier lifestyle choices and that health and social care services are quick to respond to those that need them.'

## **Risk Management**

19. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

## **Recommendations**

20. It is recommended that the committee:

- i. Agree a firm remit and timeframe for completion of the review

Reason: To ensure compliance with this committee's workplan and with scrutiny procedures and protocols

- ii. Agree methods for carrying out the review and allocate a number of tasks to individual members of the Committee, where suitable

Reason: To progress the work of the review between meetings

### Contact Details

**Author:**

Melanie Carr  
Scrutiny officer  
Scrutiny Services  
Tel. 01904 552063

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Alison Lowton  
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

**Scoping Report Approved**  **Date** 1 December 2009

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** N/A

**Wards Affected:**

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** N/A

### Annexes

**Annex A** – Topic Registration Form

**Annex B** – Copy of CYC Policy – 'Taking play Forward'

**Annex C** – List of development sites in York included in 'Playbuilder' initiative

**Annex D** – List of areas with gaps in provision not included in Playbuilder Initiative (to follow)

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**Title:**

Review of casual play opportunities for young children, with a focus on city centre provision

**Purpose:**

The review, if agreed, should:

- Outline a process to follow in order to deliver more informal play opportunities in the city centre/selected city centre wards, if a need is established.

**What should it cover?**

It should:

- provide a clear view of existing central play provision
- provide a comparison of city centre play opportunities and those available in selected suburban setting/s
- establish a city centre boundary and suitable areas within that boundary for accommodating play equipment
- explore funding options, both internal and external

**Participants**

Internal:

- Planning Officers
- Leisure Officers (Play Team)
- City Centre Manager

External:

- York Playspace (campaigning group)
- York Museums Trust (responsible for Museum Gardens)
- Parents of children attending Park Grove School, and perhaps others
- Children's Centre representatives

**How should it be carried out?**

The review should undertake:

- a survey of families (see above) and also visitors to city centre
- a committee walkabout in the city centre, following meeting with planning officers on potential for play equipment sites
- background research on comparable examples in other local authority areas, as well as imaginative examples from outside the UK

**Timescale**

3-6 months

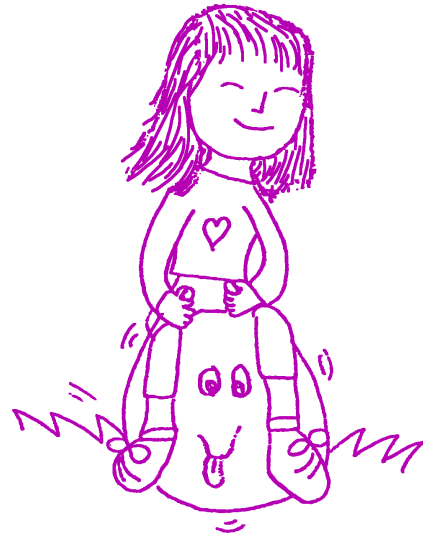
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# Taking Play Forward

A Play Strategy for York  
By the City of York Councils Play Team and partners

The Play Team would like to thank the following organisations for a selection of photos contained in this document taken by the children and young people of

- **SNAPPY**
- **Funfishers Out of School Club**
- **Bell Farm Adventure Playground**



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)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

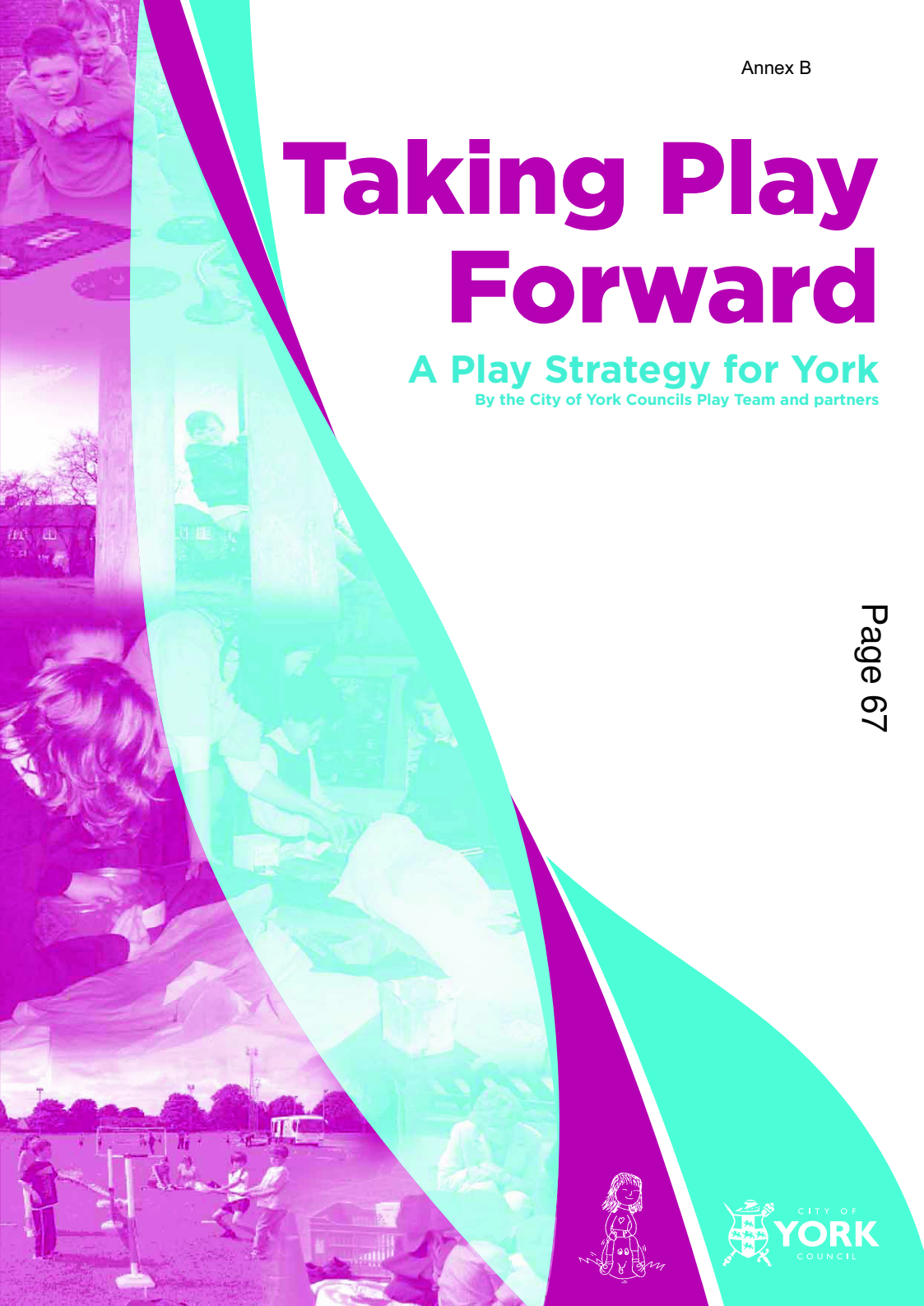
یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

☎ (01904) 554628



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# Taking Play Forward

## Foreword

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce to you our Play Policy for the City of York. It is an important document as it sets out our plans for play and the way we want provision for play to be developed over the forthcoming years. Play is important for everyone - children, young people and adults - and here in York we take play seriously - whilst thoroughly enjoying ourselves! We provide many play opportunities all round the city and make sure that both organised play and play with free access for all is supported.

I hope you will enjoy reading our play policy - it has been endorsed by the Children's Services Advisory Panel, where teachers, councillors and other representatives come together to plan the best provision for children and young people. It also has my wholehearted support as Executive Member for Children's Services. May it bring fun, healthy exercise and great satisfaction to many children in the city!

Cllr Carol Runciman  
Executive Member for Children's Services  
City of York Council



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## Executive Summary

York has had a growing focus on the importance of play for a number of years. Recent national strategies for childcare and play have given rise to further initiatives, all raising the profile of play and play-related activities, and York has a wide range of play environments and expertise.

The City of York Council's continuing commitment to play is through the formation of a designated play team based in the Early Years and Extended Schools Service of the Learning Culture and Children's Services Directorate, who are best placed to further consult and develop links with the play sector.

However, the quality of play opportunities varies. We need to do more to demonstrate the benefits of play and how it contributes to wider local and national social agendas. Play is part of every community, and its far-reaching benefits need recognition.

This document introduces a policy and strategy for play entitled 'Taking Play Forward'. It sets out the background, purpose and context within the York community. It looks for better management of play environments and increased recognition of the complex resources needed to enable children's play.

Taking Play Forward also sets out a strategic direction for 'York the Play Friendly City', a collective vision for play opportunities which is already developing. We are promoting the rights of children and young people to be both seen and heard in all aspects of play and leisure opportunities.

Taking Play Forward offers a context for meeting the challenges of recognising play as part of our wider culture. It will help build a shared understanding of children's needs, and a consistent approach to challenging any obstacles that restrict play opportunities for children, as they learn and develop as valued members of our changing community.

This is a valuable opportunity to bring together everyone concerned with play. For a realistic and holistic approach, we need to develop a shared vision, with agreed guidelines, principles, accessible information, and reviewing of procedures

Agreed and endorsed by the following in 2002 (with previous roles in brackets where appropriate)

David Atkinson,  
Chief Executive of City of York Council

Patrick Scott,  
Director of Learning Culture and Children's Services (Director of Education and Leisure)

Peggy Sleight,  
Chair of Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership (Chair of Early Years Development Childcare Partnership)

Pete Dwyer,  
Chair of Joint Children's Services Management Group

Cllr Janet Looker,  
Shadow Executive Member for Corporate Services (Executive Member Education)

Cllr Charles Hall,  
(Shadow Executive Member Education)

Cllr Alan Jones,  
(Executive Member Leisure and Heritage)

Cllr Quentin MacDonald,  
Executive Member for Corporate Services (Shadow Executive Member Leisure and Heritage)



# Taking Play Forward

## Introduction

In 1998, City of York Council signed up to the UN Convention on The Rights of the Child. Amongst other things, this states that:

- every child has a right to experience a wide range of play activities in a number of settings
- every child has the right to a sense of playfulness, which enriches all our lives.

play. (In line with the age definition adopted in the UN Convention the Rights of the Child, and the remit of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda, this policy applies to planning services and environments for children and young people under the age of 18)

### In September 2002, a paper presented to the Executive members for Education requested:

- the use of the Best Play objectives for evaluation and continuous improvement of play provision

- strategic support for the proposed framework of Taking Play Forward as a City of York Policy and Strategy for Play.

### It was at this meeting that 'Taking Play Forward' was adopted as a policy and vision for play.

In revising the policy 2006/07, York aims to embrace local and national documents and policies, which was formally approved at the Executive Member Advisory Panel for Children's Services in January 2007.



**“Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationships 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.”**

The Children's Play Council

### Why is this so important? The Children's Play Council (1998) states that:

‘Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationships 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.’

Taking Play Forward is the name for the ever evolving collective vision and strategy for play in York, commissioned initially by the Play sub-group of the former Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, now the newly renamed Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership (EYESP). It is a living, flexible approach, relevant to all children and young people up to 18 years old, all adults, whether or not they are parents/carers, and all organisations involved directly or indirectly with

## What is play?

- 1 Play is essential to children's quality of life and exploration of their culture and can be defined in the following ways:
  - ‘Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious.’ (Best Play)
  - ‘What children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons’. (Getting Serious About Play)
- 2 Children have a need and natural tendency to play anywhere. This has an impact on formal play provision and wider local authority services. In all forms of city planning and organisation, all relevant authorities need to consider and give positive support to the play environment and recognise the complex range of resources which allow children's play to happen freely. Play opportunities are more than swings and roundabouts, holiday entertainment or out of school care.
- 3 Current Playwork encourages a set of standards that are based on a set of assumptions and values that underpin good practice in Playwork. (These are outlined in Annex 1). Best Play also describes different types of play. (These are detailed in Annex 2).

### “Play is a thing where you can roam free and do what you want”

Anon girl from York age 9 (10 in 1 month!)

## Why a policy for play?

- 4 The national Children's Play Policy Forum gained the commitment of three government departments (Department of Culture, Media and Sport – DCMS, Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions - DTLR and Department for Education and Skills – DfES) to



better understand good quality play and play provision. The creation of local cultural strategies offers a major opportunity to put play on the agenda, within the broader context of quality of life issues, and to respond to children and young people's needs and work with new, creative initiatives. The DfES drew the former Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships (EYDCPs) to look alongside care and education, drawing to initiatives including out-of-school childcare Sure Start and Neighbourhood Nurseries. The new Early Years Foundation Stage promotes a strong emphasis on learning through play.

- 5 The former play sub-group of York's EYDCP commissioned the Taking Play Forward project in June 2001, to develop a collective vision and strategy for play within the city. In its revised form it is intended to be a flexible philosophy for all children, young people up to 18 years old, parents and organisations involved with play.
- 6 The policy aims to establish the value of play within our wider culture. As a policy, it invites a signed-up commitment to a joint vision, common principles and agreed guidelines for all those involved in, or able to influence, play spaces and places.

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- 7 The policy accepts the principles of both the 'Charter for Play' (Children Now 2004) and the "New Charter for Children's Play" (2004), which has been developed through the Children's Play Council.
- 8 A corporate play policy, along with a process that involves every individual and organisation concerned with play, aims to clarify the council's commitment to and understanding of play. The play policy is a practical working tool to help deal with issues concerning children's play environments.
- 9 The play policy is complementary to the Community Planning demanded by government, which aims to improve public services by putting citizens' wishes and needs at the heart of decision-making. The play policy can contribute to shared objectives under the Local Development Framework theme Culture and Tourism.
- 10 A play policy is not a one-off, short-term project. Taking Play Forward is reviewed annually and with set priorities. It is agreed that the policy should be revisited and revised every five years in line with new legislation and actively involving all children without discrimination of any kind.

### Policy Purpose

Play is an essential part of each child's culture and quality of life, and has far reaching benefits. Through the development of play opportunities and cultural initiatives, there is vital potential for promoting a sense of place, of belonging and of civic pride, as well as both individual and community self esteem and self confidence.

### The policy aims to provide the framework to:

- raise the standards of play provision
- Promote inclusive and accessible play for all children and young people

- 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.

### The Better Play Objectives

- 11 In 2000, play professionals developed a set of child-centred objectives for play provision. These offer a set of outcomes to help clarify the role that play provision should have in the lives and development of children and young people.

- 12 The Taking Play Forward policy adopts the nationally recognised 7 Best Play objectives which are commended as a framework which shows how children benefit from play and quality play services. York has also included two further objectives in line with Ofsted regulations, which are referred to in this document as the Better Play Objectives and are detailed below.

### Better Play: Objectives for play provision

**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

Best Play objectives can also form the basis for evaluation and continuous improvement of play provision. See the 'Better Play' Criteria listed in Annex 3.

National Playing Fields Association, Children's Play Council and PLAYLINK: (2000)  
Best Play: What play provision should do for children. NPFA

### Implementation

- 13 In developing the Taking Play Forward Policy the following points are key to its implementation.
  - The objectives should be considered by all individuals and organisations making decisions which affect (directly or indirectly) the rights of children to play and to be consulted.
  - It is recognised that in developing the Taking Play Forward policy with play settings signing up to its values, each organisation may wish to further develop the policy to be specific to their own settings.
  - The former Play Sub Group has developed the Taking Play Forward Partnership which encourages a citywide involvement from play sector and offers support and guidance.
  - Each organisation is also encouraged to contribute to the development of York's Children and Young People's plan led by the Children's Trust.
  - Opportunities to create open, inclusive and accessible free play and adventure play in the general environment should be priority.
  - Methods of collating and communicating good practice through newsletters is already established through the Shared Foundation Newsletter as well as other publications.
  - Shared initiatives for potential joint funding bids will be sought as appropriate.

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### Responsibilities

- 14** It is the responsibility of the City of York Council's Play Team based in the Early Years and Extended Schools Services to oversee the development and co-ordination of the policy in conjunction with play partners, relevant internal and external organisations, children and young people, families and communities.
- 15** Play settings signing up to the Taking Play Forward policy are also responsible as individuals and organisations claiming to offer all children good quality play opportunities, to be able to show how the above play objectives underpin the play environment.

### The Case for Play

- 16** We want more of our community to understand and value play, not only as a worthwhile activity, but as essential for each individual's well being. The challenge is to provide the best possible play opportunities, activities, events and environments, which are safe, suitable, easy to get at, affordable, stimulating, varied and, above all, fun. What we provide must respect the right of children to play freely and safely on their own, or interact with other children, adults and carers. In each context, it must be relevant to children's stage of development and physical and mental capabilities, responsive to their choices, opinions, reactions and respect equality.
- 17** The UN Convention on The Rights of the Child was ratified by the UK Government in 1991. The Convention confers on all children, without discrimination of any kind, (Article 2.1) the following rights:
- the right to play (Article 31)
  - their right to be consulted on matters which affect them (Article 12)

- the right to express their views (Article 13)
- the right to meet with others (Article 15)
- the right to be protected from harm and abuse (Article 19)
- the right to services developed in their 'best interests' (Article 3.1) and
- the right to provision of an agreed standard (Article 3.3).

Children playing and adults taking part in cultural and leisure activities are both learning about social values, beliefs and traditions. Through play and cultural initiatives, people can develop a sense of place, and civic pride, as well as community self-esteem and confidence. This type of understanding is more 'caught' than taught. It is the difference between being able to recite a moral code and learning to live by one. From this perspective, play and culture are not so much activities as ways of 'being'.

- 18** Thinking about play as a cultural experience can help bring people together and encourage them to have their say in decisions which affect their neighbourhoods. Play opportunities can enhance the provision of leisure, housing, transport routes, education and a range of other services for adults as well as children and young people.
- 19** Initially, children do not distinguish between 'play' and 'work'; it is a natural aspect of their culture and quality of life. Play is first and foremost undertaken for enjoyment, but the benefits are far-reaching, as it plays a natural part in individual and community development.



### Historical Perspective

- 20** The EYDCP Play sub-group appointed a part-time play policy development worker in September 2001 who initiated various consultative activities, submitted papers for the Executive and Scrutiny, and drew up action plans and guidelines for the Play sub-group. Organisations and discussion groups which have contributed to consultation are identified in Annex 4
- 21** Questionnaires were mailed to all early years and childcare settings registered with the York Children's Information Service. Replies received were constructive, confirming the relevance of the Best Play objectives and the proposed play policy framework.



- 22** Discussion groups were held which focused on the Best Play objectives and allowed over 100 participants the opportunity to identify the barriers and wishes for play with key comments (see Annex 5).
- 23** Since 2001, voluntary sector groups have accessed the Council's Better Play Grant, which links their current play opportunities against the Best Play objectives to enable them to access funding. This emphasises City of York Councils continuing commitment to play though this annual Voluntary and Community Sector funding.

### Financial Picture for Play

- 24** There are a variety of discretionary grants available from City of York Council to support activities for children and young people. Voluntary organisations are able to obtain funding for leisure activities from other leisure services budgets and specific service level agreements, including Schools Out, and from ward committees.
- 25** As previously mentioned in point 23, the 'Better Play' budget currently funds play sector projects set against the 'Better Play' objectives. Applicants are asked to describe how their current play opportunities meet at least 5 of the 9 objectives. Officers from the Play Team shortlist against the objectives and select appropriate projects that meet local need. It is the responsibility of the Policy Development W to visit organisations in receipt of the grant monitoring and evaluation purposes using 1 Better Play criteria (Annex 3).
- 26** As with many grant awarding processes, de on the Better Play budget exceed supply. If organisations are to develop sustainable pla opportunities, then the case for play needs to be constantly brought to the attention of relevant council bodies to encompass both the amount and purpose of the Better Play budget. Cost effectiveness of Service Level Agreements and grants are constantly reviewed to ensure a more sustainable play sector.
- 27** Yorkash is a development of the cities 50k Fund project first launched in 1998/99, in which applications were completed by, for the benefit of, and monitored and assessed by young people. This innovative project was further enhanced in 2006 to include funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund. As part of the process, young people involved on the panel are able to attain an Assessment and

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Qualifications Alliance award. This project is facilitated by Play Team and Youth Service officers.

- 28** In response to the findings of 'Getting Serious about Play' (2004) the national play review undertaken for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Big Lottery announced its commitment to the sector through the launch of its Children's Play programme. The Play Team welcome and fully support this initiative and will take the lead in coordinating with partners the spending of the allocation against the Taking Play Forward policy which will in turn contribute to achieving people and families in the City.



- 29** In the short-term, play organisations need to be encouraged to regularly carry out meaningful consultation with children and young people to ensure appropriate service development and best use of resources. The Play Team work to support the play sector in providing information relating to other funding streams.
- 30** The Best Value regime adopted by central government has placed a duty on local authorities to ensure that all services purchased

by them on behalf of their clients provide the Best Value both in terms of money and the quality of the services provided. This is regardless of whether the services are provided by the Statutory, Voluntary or Private Sector.

### Play Today In York

- 31** The councils Play Team lead on seven projects for children and young people in conjunction with York's play sector. In addition the team also organise a number of celebrations including National Play Day, which offer numerous opportunities to consult with children, young people, families, communities and the play sector. Further details of play team projects and initiatives can be seen in the Play Team booklet.
- 32** The play sector in York is made up of a wide variety of providers which the Play Team currently supports through funding, offering advice and information. Meetings between the play sector and the Play Team are held on a regular basis through the Taking Play Forward Partnership. Historically key partners include York Playspace, York ChildCare, SNAPPY and Bell Farm Adventure Playground.
- 33** The national themed annual Playday and other local events with associated play partners, provides an opportunity to celebrate and raise the importance of play both locally and nationally

### Play's Strategic links

#### Links to Policy and Strategy

- 34** In revising and developing the Play Policy the process requires identifying links with other policies. The Play Team are committed to seeing that the views, needs and interests of play, childcare and education providers are reflected within all policies, practices and service plans

(Annex 6). This involves consultation with children and young people, parents, the community and other stakeholders and ensures that the community is informed of services.



- 35** Since the Taking Play Forward Policy was written in 2002 a number of key policies and documents have been written both locally and nationally. Throughout the revised document the policy aims to make clear links to these strategic documents and highlight the importance of play in the context of other services internally and externally to the council.
- 36** York's 20 year vision and community strategy took two years to develop and was agreed by public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations and key partners across the city. Led by the Without Walls Executive Board, the development of the vision and the result of widespread consultation with residents, local public services, business and community and voluntary groups regarding their views for the future, through what was themed a 'Festival of Ideas'. Hundreds of residents and visitors took part, including many whose views are not normally heard. Activities included live public debates and ward based community events and 'postcards for the future'. (York's Local Area Agreement, version 1, 2006).

#### Local Area Agreement

- 37** York's Local Area Agreement makes clear links between the city's strategies guided by consultation. The document sets out York's key priorities in 4 blocks, one of which is Children and Young People, which is detailed against the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes. The Play Team has linked to this policy documents a performance indicator which tracks the number of play providers signing up to the Taking Play Forward policy.

#### Priorities for Children and Young People - York's Local Area Agreement

##### Being Healthy

- Encourage more children and young people to be more physically active.
- Improve the eating habits and diet of young people
- Reduce the level of teenage pregnancy
- Promote healthy lifestyles

##### Staying Safe

- Reducing accidents on the roads involving young people
- Protect children more effectively
- Ensure more looked after children are in secure stable places

##### Enjoying and Achieving

- Raise standards of achievement
- Provide high quality early years experience
- Support parents in helping their children to enjoy and achieve
- Improve enrichment opportunities for children and young people
- Ensure that people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities receive appropriate support and advice

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### Making a Positive Contribution

- Improve life chances for young people
- Increase active involvement of young people
- Reduce offending by young people

### Achieving Economic Well-being

- Increase number of young people actively engaging in education and training
- Enhance skills of young people at 16 and at 18
- Reduce poverty levels and the impact of poverty on the lives of children and young people

## Play Partners

### Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**38** The Play Team sit within the Early Years and Extended Schools Service, part of the Lifelong Learning and Culture service arm, which is part of the newly formed directorate that is Learning Culture and Children's Services. The benefits of this ensure that play is at the heart of the children and young peoples agenda and can make strategic links with teams such as Library

Services through the Schools Out and Arts and Culture through the GRAB Scheme. The formation of the new directorate has proved to be invaluable in further strengthening links with internal partners.

### Taking Play Forward Partnership - local involvement

**39** In developing York's play scene, partnership working is key. The Play sub-group has now evolved into the Taking Play Forward Partnership, where strategic and grass roots play issues are discussed. Participants in this group are from varied play backgrounds with specific remits such as open access play, out-of-school childcare, the arts, parks and open spaces, library services and sports. Its broad membership encourages freedom to initiate debate, consider and comment on issues affecting play and leisure opportunities and help make national and regional play recommendations a reality by challenging local barriers. Annex 7 provides details of the Partnerships Mission Statement and a list of current play providers and partners within the City.

### York Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership (EYESP)

**40** In 2003, the EYDCP developed into a consultative forum called the EYESP and is consulted 4 times per year regarding council plans which enhance the Care, Play and Educational experiences of Children up to the age of 14 (16 for those with special needs). The Play Team regularly presents and provides information, as well as evoke discussion topics relating to play at these meetings.

**41** The national introduction of the Foundation Stage curriculum (The new Early Years Foundation Stage due to be introduced in 2008) encourages those working with three to five year olds to plan and organise new learning experiences in ways which build on, support and extend children's spontaneous play. Children under five have the choice of a range of educational settings which meet the requirements of the Foundation Stage. The Shared Foundation Partnerships are clusters of organisations based round schools, and work together to provide well-planned, play-based environments which can meet a variety of local needs for children and young people. Seamless transitions between settings is an important part of this strategy. This work has been recognised through the presentation of 3 National Excellence Awards.

### Extended Schools

- 42** The provision of extended services in schools under the nationwide Every Child Matters policy will result, by 2010, every school offering:
- High quality 8am – 6pm childcare, either on the school site or through other providers
  - A varied menu of activities for children and young people – including study support, homework clubs, sports, music, arts and crafts etc.
  - Parenting support
  - Swift and easy referral
  - Wider community access to school facilities.
- 43** Play is at the heart of this agenda. If children and young people are to be given the opportunity to access activities outside of the established school day, it is critical that those longer hours in school provide activities which pay close regard to the philosophy of play as a fundamental right, and that those providing these additional activities value and have an

understanding of the different types of play and how to support them. To do any other would bring instances of play deprivation for individual children and for the community in the future. The extended schools agenda gives City of York a real opportunity to plan activities in consultation with children and young people which will empower, excite and inspire them, and allow a continuous debate between them and adults and mean a Best Value approach. This is a very serious agenda – it is about bringing fun centre stage into local communities because it is only when people are happy that they can relax, learn and work together. Extended Schools will be linked into 8 new Integrated Childrens Centres arranged within 3 Areas of the city.

**44** Play and leisure are critical - indeed, "Leisure consists of all those virtuous activities by people grow morally, intellectually and spiritually. It is that which makes life worth living." - Marcus Tullius Cicero.

### Voluntary and Community Sector

**45** The voluntary and community sector is recognised as a key partner with the council providing important services to the community, many of which are complementary to those of the public sector. York's Voluntary Sector Compact seeks to establish consistency in the way the council and voluntary sector work together, and must be kept in mind in any play policy developments.



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- 46** The Play Team works closely with the current 0-19 Children and Young Peoples and Families Officer, based at the Council for Voluntary Services. It further develops the links the Play Team can utilise to filter information to and from York's community and voluntary sector.



## Regional Support

- 47** A member of the Play Team is a Director of Yorkshire Play, a regional charity with a remit to promote access to excellent play opportunities for all children and young people in the Yorkshire and the Humber region by:
- Supporting play providers to develop high quality, diverse and inclusive play environment
  - Supporting the development of a qualified play workforce
  - Advocating the right of all children and young

people to play, through lobbying at local, regional and national levels

- Promoting a play friendly approach within all services for children and young people and those services that impact on play

This enables feedback of information and a direct link to strategic decisions about play in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

## Children's Trust Unit

- 48** In 2003 the green paper 'Every Child Matters' and the Children Act 2004 described Children's Trusts as the governments preferred model for achieving a local integration and improvement to services for children and young people. In York the Children's Trust preventative model is YorOk which provides an organisational vehicle for services to work to meet identified needs of children and young people in the city. The Children's Trust Unit, with the support of a multi agency management board, also leads on the development of the City's Children and Young People's plan.

- 49** The Play Team form an integral part of both the development and delivery of the YorOk initiative which is a city wide strategy aimed to support services to work more closely and effectively together. The Play Team actively encourages and promotes the involvement of the play sector to be part of the YorOk community and also feeds into the Children and Young People's Plan. In the near future, this will involve groups registering as quality providers on the YorOk service directory and website, currently in development by the Children's Information Service. The service directory and website aims to act as a hub of information for parents/ carers, practitioners, children and young people and will hold a comprehensive database of a range of relevant information, including play provision in the City.

## Parks and Open Spaces

- 50** Government guidance (PPG17) recognises the importance of open space, in delivering a number of key objectives. Open space in York includes approximately 480 hectares of parks and open spaces. This includes pitches for sport, formal and informal parks, riverside walks, strays, woods, lakes and ponds and around 76 children's play areas. (City of York Local Development Framework (LDF), June 2006).
- 51** The quality and location of open spaces across the city is variable with 3 of the city's parks being awarded Civic Trust Green Flag status (Rowntree and West Bank parks and Glen Gardens). The percentage of equipped playgrounds in York that meet National Playing Fields Association standards LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and LAP (Local Area for Play) standard is 36%. The target for 2006/2007 is 42%, which is an increase from only 13% in 2001.
- 52** In response, York's LDF outlines that, 'the council currently places a strong emphasis on the protection of existing open spaces', and recognises, 'that certain areas of the city do not have ready access to either children's play areas or good quality amenity open space and aims to address the issues of access.'
- 53** The Parks and Open Spaces section of the council holds a comprehensive map of the city's parks and opens spaces, along with information relating to types of equipment at each play area. An improved audit is being commissioned to comply with the requirements of PPG17, which will look in more detail at open space distribution, its use and for the first time in any detail, its quality.
- 54** The Parks and Open Spaces section have a responsibility for the design, installation and upkeep of the play equipment in parks and play

areas within their ownership across the city. New housing developments are subject to planning permission and there is a statutory requirement to incorporate a new play area if it is feasible to do so. Alternatively, when it is not feasible, make a contribution to improve an existing, local play area as part of the 106 agreement appropriate to that development. These are part of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) which include obligations on land owners to provide a facility for example an access road or play area. It has been negotiated that the Play Team are informed and will have a contribution and influence on the design and nature of any new development that will be funded through 106 payments



## Sport and Active Leisure Strategy for York 2003

- 55** "Active York" is the city's sport and active leisure strategic partnership and has representation from across the sector including the local authority, Higher Education and Further Education institutions, schools, voluntary sector sports clubs, governing bodies, the 2 professional clubs, the PCT, the media, and the private sector. "Active York" published the first Sport & Active leisure strategy for York in 2003. Under the title "Making a Difference" it set out sporting aspirations for the city. Since then much has been achieved and a new

## 12 Taking Play Forward

"blueprint for change" has been adopted by the partnership. This aims to help the sector rise to the challenge of "helping York to be a city that offers the widest range of opportunities for active leisure so that citizens may benefit from better health, enjoyment, and the achievement of individual potential."



**56** In addition to the more traditional sporting fayre, activities such as active play, and parenting programmes are also key to the success of this strategy. Promoting a foundation for participation in physical activity, healthy lifestyles, tackling obesity and lifelong learning extends from engaging children in active play to encouraging the need for "everyday exercise" throughout family life. Through the promotion of facility improvement (e.g. creche provision and play space), programme development (e.g. APEL, and Schools Out programmes), meaningful community consultation and fostering of effective working partnerships (e.g. the EYESP), Active York aims to ensure that rates of participation in sport and active leisure increase across all age groups.

### Library Services

**57** City of York Library Services are for everyone who lives, works or studies in the York area, each year lending 1.5 million books, videos, CDs and DVDs and having over 850,000 visits. These services are delivered in partnership across the City in every community through York Central Library, 13 community libraries, a mobile library and at Askham Grange Prison.

**58** Libraries are great arenas for play and learning. Learning is at the heart of libraries' offer and new builds in community libraries are linking with schools or incorporating flexible learning spaces as part of library learning centres. The link between fun and learning - at any age - is well supported by libraries' core offer of safe, welcoming places to meet; a huge range of books, music, films and other materials to use and take home; exciting activities to take part in, and friendly people to help.

**59** All services to children under 12 are free and most things are free after that. There are children's areas in every library - having their own special place can help children feel part of a community that values them. There are under fives' story and toy sharing sessions in all libraries, plus a baby Book Crawl activity.

Libraries are ideal places for children to play together and parents and carers to meet. Families can take part in shared activities, by getting to know their local library as a place to choose and use books and toys, tell stories together, and use the computers free. Friendly staff will help you find your way round, and make the most of what's on offer.

**60** Libraries also offer year round activities, most of them free, through Read Write York, Bookstart, School's Out, Summer Reading Challenge and much more. Many activities, such as Bookstart, also happen outside library buildings. Activities are all listed on Yortime,

where you can find information on interest groups throughout the city, or have help to set one up.

**61** Libraries are working closely with partners and increasingly with customers, to develop services. For example in the offer for Children's Centres, with Adult and Family Learning groups and with Youth Services over provision for and with young people. More targeted work is planned here. Library web pages give details of much more, for example the Free Music Scheme, Imagine York, Enquire 24 hour live online enquiry service, and online information sources for Library members. There are opportunities for everyone, from birth onwards, to 'explore, dream and discover'.

### Neighbourhood Management Unit

**62** The Neighbourhood Management Unit sits within the Councils Neighbourhood Services Directorate. The Play Team liaise with the Unit in relation to the planning of activities for children and young people at a ward level to ensure the best use of available resources.

### Youth Service

**63** The Youth Service works in partnership with the Play Team in order to promote activities and opportunities for young people to have access to spaces, activities and services for them to use in their leisure time. The Youth Service works to engage young people in developing and designing the services and facilities that are available to them and take an active part in planning activities and services. This enables maximum access to these facilities and ensure they are safe, of a high standard and celebrates the diversity of young people across the City. The youth service works to create opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge, abilities, skills, interests and friendship.

**64** There is a growing recognition of the importance of helping 8 to 12 year olds make a

successful transition from a play environment to a youth setting and early discussions will lead to a joined up approach in taking this forward.

### Arts Service

**65** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Arts Council recognise the role that the Arts has to play in providing opportunities for children and young people to explore and discover the real and imagined world through creative play. Within Arts and Culture there is a range of opportunities both for child-initiated play activities or more structured play and learning outcomes. At the Performing Arts Centres out of school activity covers the range of Dance, Drama and Music for all ages from 4 upwards. Children can experiment with the texture of sound, movement and character and while they learn about the specific art for they are gaining social and performing skills. We have plans to redevelop the Performing Arts Centres so that the scope of the provision covers visual arts, film and media as well as off projects and a master class programme.

**66** At our summer school courses each year, people have the chance to write their own songs, devise their own drama performances and create their own props and costumes, as well as experiencing a whole variety of visual arts. The self-esteem that these young performers acquire is immeasurable.

**67** Within our community arts provision, we work in partnership to develop creative play with a wide range of communities, neighbourhoods and organisations. Our GRAB (get really arty boxes) scheme allows all sorts of groups to work with an artist to kick start their creativity. The group then keeps the box for 6 weeks to allow them to really unleash their creative potential. There are all sorts of different art forms to choose from, and no limit on how many different boxes groups can apply for.





# 16 Taking Play Forward

## Ensuring good quality play

- 79** In the mixed economy of play, care, education and leisure, many good local play practices go unrecognised. The 'Steps to Quality' scheme has been developed in York and North Lincolnshire to offer a quality assurance award for day care providers which is helping to address this. One of the main principles of the scheme states that "play forms the basis of children's daily experience". Steps to Quality provides a framework to recognise and develop good quality play provision, and is now in use in four local authorities within the Yorkshire and Humber region. Some play organisations also measure their settings against other standards such as 'Aiming Higher' from 4Children and London Play's 'Quality in Play'.
- 80** Steps to Quality is proving to be a popular quality assurance scheme with some 59 settings working towards or having already achieved the various steps. These include childminders, nurseries and out of school clubs.
- 81** The Taking Play Forward policy also recognises and promotes the Criteria for an enriched play environment outlined in Best Play, What Play Provision Should do for Children, published by the National Playing Field Association, March 2000. (See Annex 8).

## Risk in Play

- 82** The Play Team recognises that children need to challenge their boundaries and barriers when they play. The Play Safety Forum, which is a group of national agencies involved in play safety, has produced Managing Risk in Play Provision, to support the work of those involved in play provision of any kind including local authorities.

- 83** This document is fully supported and endorsed by key national organisations with an interest in play and safety including the Health and Safety Executive. The official summary statement is as follows;

**Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury.**

The City of York Council recognises and adopts the full document as our position statement.

- 84** Utilising the Play Teams work in the City, along with the play sector through the Taking Play Forward Partnership and consultation, it is apparent that the Play Team needs to support and develop its services, and that of other play providers, to offer increased opportunities for risk and adventure play across the City.

**"In just a single generation the home habitat of a typical 8 year old - the area that a child can travel around on their own - has shrunk to one ninth of its original size."** The Children's Play Council

## Training

- 85** The play sector has an ongoing concern in the recruitment of Playworkers, early years workers, childminders, volunteers, and voluntary management groups. This continues to restrict the development of both new and established play and childcare provision. Staff retention is also difficult due to working hours, terms and conditions, pay-scales in relation to job responsibilities, demands of bureaucracy, limited development opportunities and limited bursaries for training.
- 86** To encourage growth and development within the play sector, there are a number of initiatives to help combat some of the issues mentioned in the previous paragraph. These include:
- a programme of training for Playworkers, childminders and early years practitioners is offered by the Training and Development Unit, NCMA development workers, York College, Workers in Education Association, York and North Yorkshire voluntary sector learning and skills network, Family Learning and York and North Yorkshire Playwork Assessment Consortium to mention a few
  - support offered through the Children's Information Service to assist settings in recruiting staff and support potential childcare workers and promotion at relevant job fairs.
  - agencies such as York Childcare regularly advertise job opportunities through their website and newsletter.



## Developing opportunities

- 87** It is recognised that some steps have already begun to be made in supporting and developing the play sector work force. The following steps can ensure that this continues.
- Training needs identified through the play sector will be fed back to appropriate training providers including the Training and Development Unit.
  - We will encourage the use of Taking Play Forward to put into context the local play agenda in any play sector training that promotes the values of play.
  - We promote funding opportunities to enable play workers to achieve relevant skills and qualifications to meet legal requirements and promote anti-discriminatory practices.

## Reviewing and monitoring

- 88** In reviewing the policy, the play team are committed to regular reviewing and monitoring.
- The Play Team in conjunction with the Taking Play Forward Partnership will carry out annual monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the policy in the absence of an independently constituted play forum.
  - We will provide formal and informal opportunities for children, young people and play partners to express their views and give feedback on their comments
  - We will link evaluation and monitoring to the Best Play guidelines.
- 89** All monitoring and reviewing will be part of the annual service plan produced by the Play Team linked to corporate Council plans including the Children and Young People's Plan

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**90** A review and update of the 2002 Taking Play Forward action plan has taken place to see that the policy and procedures are put into practice and priority needs are met. (Outlined in Annex 9).

**91** The performance of all councils is rated by the Audit Commission under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework. The rating for York's core services is updated each year based on performance indicators. The Play Team directly works towards a number of performance indicators linked to the Council Plan (and Best Value Performance Plan) 2006/07. These include:

- CYP1 – Number of community groups working in partnership with the council to deliver the young peoples holiday programme
- CYP2 – Number of young people taking part in the holiday activities programme
- CYP4 – Number of holiday activities

**In December 2005 York was judged to be a 3 star council.**

**92** All grievances or complaints about play provisions should be dealt with in line with procedures of individuals organisations. Where concerns are expressed in relation to **Taking Play Forward**, the City of York Councils complaints procedure will be followed.

## Recommendations

**93** In revising the policy 2006/07, the Play Team invites members of the play sector to embrace the policy and sign up to it's values. We recognise that the Taking Play Forward policy is an ever evolving document. We encourage a shared vision through consultation and welcome feedback.

**94** Partners are invited to offer strategic support for Taking Play Forward at a senior level in their

organisations or departments through agreement to the development of a shared and collective vision for play.

### Taking Play Forward Policy Recommendations:

- the need for strategic, corporate support for Taking Play Forward
- to promote quality, inclusive play at all formal and informal play settings
- to utilise the results of consultation with all children and young people to inform service development
- the celebration of good play practices
- using Best 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 cross-directorate commitment to include play, leisure and culture matters
- seek out, support and promote relevant training opportunities for the play sector
- support opportunities for risk and adventure play across the City



## Assumptions and Values of Playwork - Annex 1

The National Occupational Standards for Playwork describe the functions that competent practitioners should carry out. However, the standards are based on a set of principles and values that underpin good practice in Playwork. These principles and values are not unique to the National Occupational Standards. They summarise the outcomes of a number of studies of children's play and professional Playwork, most recently 'Best Value' and 'The First Claim' in Wales.

### The first principle in about children's play:

Children's play is for its own sake, not for a particular outcome. Play is about exploration, risk and challenge and is essential for children to develop. Children choose what and how they play.

### The second principle is about the professional role of the play worker:

The main role of the Playworker is ensuring that their play setting offers opportunities for children to access and experience all play types. The playworker has unconditional respect for children and supports their play without controlling it.

### The Values of Playwork include:

- 1 The child is at the centre of the process
- 2 Empowerment
- 3 Children's rights
- 4 Risk and challenge
- 5 Safety
- 6 Children's individuality
- 7 Equality of opportunity
- 8 New experiences
- 9 Positive role models
- 10 Reflection and evaluation

## Play Types - Annex 2

These play types are adapted from 'Best Play' (National Playing Fields Association, March 2000) and 'The First Claim', a framework for playworker quality assessment' (Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru and Play Ed, 2001) which in turn are adapted from earlier work by Bob Hughes.

- **Symbolic Play** - Play, which allows control, gradual exploration and increased understanding, without the risk of being out of one's depth. For example - using a piece of wood to symbolise a person, or a piece of string to symbolise a wedding ring.
- **Exploratory Play** - Play to access factual information consisting of manipulation or movement, assessing its properties, possibilities and contents, such as stacking bricks.
- **Rough and Tumble** - Close encounter play is less to do with fighting and more to do with touching, tickling, gauging relative strength discovering physical flexibility and exhilarat display. For example playful fighting, wrestl and chasing where the children involved are obviously unharmed and giving every indicatio they are enjoying themselves.
- **Fantasy Play** - Play, which rearranges the world in the child's way, a way that is unlikely to occur. For example playing at being a pilot around the world or an owner of an expensive car.
- **Socio-dramatic Play** - The enactment of real and potential experiences of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature. For example - playing at house, going to the shops, being mothers and fathers, organising a meal or even having a row.
- **Imaginative Play** - Play where the convenience rules, which govern the physical world, do not apply. For example - imagining you are, or pretending to be, a tree or ship, or patting a dog, which isn't there.

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- **Social Play** - Play during which the rules and criteria for social engagement and interaction can be revealed, explored and amended. For example - any social or interactive situation which contains an expectation on all parties that they will abide by the rules or protocols, i.e. games, conversations, making something together.
- **Loco motor Play** - Movement in any and every direction for its sake. For example - chase, tag, hide and seek, tree climbing.
- **Creative Play** - Play that allows a new response, a transformation of information, awareness of new connections, with an element of surprise. For example - enjoying creation with a range of materials and tools for its own sake.
- **Mastery Play** - Control of the physical and affective ingredients. For example - digging holes, changing the course of streams, constructing shelters and building fires.
- **Communication Play** - Play using words, nuances or gestures for example mime, jokes, play acting, mickey taking, singing, debate, poetry.
- **Object Play** - Play which uses infinite and interesting sequences of hand-eye manipulations and movements. For example - examination and novel use of the object e.g. cloth, paintbrush, and cup.
- **Dramatic Play** - Play that dramatizes events in which the child is not a direct participator. For example presentation of a TV show, an event on the street, a religious or festive event, even a funeral.
- **Role Play** - Play exploring ways of being, although not normally of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature. For example doctors and nurses
- **Deep Play** - Play which allows the child to encounter risky or even potentially life threatening experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear. For example leaping onto an aerial runway, riding a bike on a parapet, balancing on a high beam.



## Better Play Criteria - Annex 3

These are drawn from those recommended by the national Children's Play Council and are being developed through local consultations with children, young people, adults and organisations with an interest in play. The types of information or activity should be specific, measurable and relate to real examples of play work. It may include one or more of the following:

### Better Play Criteria

#### Raise the standards of play provision

#### Encourage joint working between children, individuals and services with interests in play

#### Increase the recognition of the importance of play

#### Provides children with their rights to play

#### Extends the choice and control that children have over their play

#### Values equality and encourages social inclusion

#### Celebrates diversity through a range of play opportunities

#### Promotes lifelong learning for children and adults

#### Practices community development and positive social behaviour

#### Promotes healthy life Styles

### How this may be demonstrated

A measurable description of how play activities have improved over the year

Specific active links to show co-operative working with children and named individuals, services or other organisations

A specified number of promotional activities e.g. open days, press coverage, participation in local community events

Enabling specified times and places for free-play opportunities and offering a variety of identifiable play experiences (formal or informal)

Quotes, pictures etc to show the active involvement of children in planning, choosing, managing, evaluating and continuing their own play opportunities over time

Working policies, monitoring reports, specific links with minority groups, diversity of service users /staff and volunteers

Measurable examples to show how children are supported in exploring the natural, social and cultural world beyond their usual experiences; evaluation of play activities

Specific numbers and ways children seen to build knowledge through consecutive play activities over time; Ongoing training programme for adult service users and for the service providers; Evaluation and review of processes being developed

Involvement of, and in, the wider community on two or more specified occasions; positive role models in staff and service users; two specific examples of ways in which independence, self-esteem, respecting people and places have been encouraged

Identify particular and relevant activities; Provision of information on health and environmental issues; involvement of users in menus / food based activities

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Better Play Criteria	How this may be demonstrated
<b>Has good employment practices</b>	Recruitment practices are clear and open, equality of opportunity demonstrated, staff and volunteer induction, contracts, relevant training, reviews
<b>Meets relevant legislative requirements</b>	OFSTED as relevant; Risk Assessment; relevant training /qualifications; policies vs practices; insurance; balance risk and challenge whilst being safe from harm
<b>How are your users involved in and consulted about decision making in your organisation?</b>	This question reflects the Council's commitment to local services that enable local people, and particularly service users, to have some influence over how the service is provided and run

### Consultations with individuals and organisations in developing the policy 2001 - Annex 4

One person or one organisation cannot write a play policy. Taking the play values to those involved in play is an essential part of Taking Play Forward. It is becoming a living and working playful policy with dreams and aspirations but also with very real barriers and practical solutions. Not all those consulted to date are able to see or access the benefits of play.

#### Questionnaire (Written responses)

Healthy Schools  
Pupil Support team  
SEN Services  
York Youth Forum Project  
York Childcare  
National Playwork Centre NE  
Safer York Partnership  
(Education Health & Safety and North Yorkshire Police)

Total Leisure (Barbican)  
School's Clubs UK  
Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust  
Ralph Butterfield School  
Woodthorpe School  
Jack in the Box Preschool  
Phoenix Under 5s  
Copmanthorpe Childcare Centre  
Private Day nursery

#### Plus

Articles in newsletters sent out by:  
York Childcare, York Playspace and City of York Council Intranet  
17 cross-departmental respondents to 'Take a Chance on Play'  
an email sent to all CYC Departmental users on National Playday (7.8.02)

#### Discussion Groups

Hosting organisation	Venue	Date	Participants
York Early Years and Childcare Services	City of York Guildhall	12 Oct 2001	Early Years & Childcare Services staff; York Playspace; Pre-school Learning Alliance
CYC Education Special Needs Services	Fulford School	30 Nov 2001	SEN Staff and advisers; Year 11 students
York Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership	Abbotts Mews Hotel, York	11 Dec 2001	Chair, Lead Officer, 30 EYDCP members
National Child Minding Association	York CVS, Priory Street	23 Feb 2002	Delegates at York Childminders Conference
York Playspace	Friends Meeting House	13 March 2002	Wigginton Out of School Club; York & North Yorkshire Playwork Assessment Centre; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Making Choices participants
SNAPPY	Burton Stone Community Centre	21 March 2002	SNAPPY volunteers and staff

### Some Key Comments - Annex 5

#### Policy document

Play is important and needs recognition as being vital to child development  
Need practical examples and support of how to write own policy  
Need 'benchmarks'/good practice with other play provision to share ways to address problems  
So many people and groups to influence and too few development workers to enable this  
Kids not electorate.  
Perceived lack of overall organisation and consideration for the needs of children and play in modern government planning policies.

Lead by example e.g. show enthusiasm for work/life balance

#### Play opportunities

Information and activity exchange with other groups  
Don't let routines, political correctness or fear of litigation upset real play  
Make more of school playgrounds throughout the year  
Garden and yard outside my playgroup  
Green open spaces watched over at a distance  
Local ownership of play opportunities  
Safer streets, cleaner (dog and geese free) playgrounds  
How to challenge intimidation by older children safely

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I can't play in our garden anymore because it's too small and mum has turned it into a landscape garden and that's no good for a football pitch

A table tennis league for us, dad takes me to his club, I couldn't go without him

A chess club that's not at the top of stairs

### Anti-discriminatory practices

Produce documents in Turkish, with Makaton symbols, large print etc

Listen to all children and then act on their ideas keeping them informed of progress

Children to be more respected by adults and to take on responsibilities

Develop expertise in teachers and others who can encourage and help all children take part in different activities

If PHAB have a Community bus, could there be a coach to collect us at one of the Park & Rides and take us on day trips with each other (with volunteer helpers) - trips to football matches, pop bands, concerts?

All can climb trees

### Training

Develop opportunities for taking training to the settings

Increase knowledge and understanding of the range and relevance of training available

'Can do' awareness training for importance of play for all children

Develop confidence and respect between practitioners and parents/carers that enables children with different skills, backgrounds and abilities to be included and feel welcome in a variety of play settings

### Resources

Proper partnerships with Playing Fields and RoSPA to share information and practices

Have a directory of play opportunities and resources locally

Playgrounds with more age appropriate and developmentally appropriate equipment and facilities

A play bus to support the mobiles and workshops for all

### Funding

Play environments need support in identifying and maximising available funding

Open and clear process for Voluntary Sector Discretionary play grants

Policy should not create a funding hoop



## Service Plan for 2007/08 - Annex 6

**Service Plan for:** Early Years and Extended Schools Service – Play Team

**Directorate:** Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**Service Arm:** Lifelong Learning and Culture

**Service Description** - The Team cover various aspects of Play in York including:

- the **Active Play Equipment Library** - A service which provides a stock of play equipment to hire to joining out of school childcare providers such as Nurseries, Childminders, Clubs and Playgroups. The service includes a delivery / pickup service and various training opportunities.
- the **Toy Library Forum** - This service gives advice and support on all aspects of setting up and running a toy / leisure library and also produces a leaflet advertising all toy libraries. Funding is available.
- **"Taking Play Forward"** - This is York's Play Policy. Grants are available to voluntary and community organisations working with 0 -18 year olds who meet the 9 Better Play Objectives.

• **"School's Out"** - A programme of activities for children and young people aged 5-18 years each and every school holiday period. Activities include sports, arts, parks and open spaces and library services.

• the **Cultural Diversity Project** - A project which aims to encourage the involvement of children from BME communities in mainstream settings. The project has developed three cultural resource kits available to hire by settings focusing on Chinese, Asian and Kurdish cultures.

• **Street Sport York** - A service which is funded through Sport England and run in conjunction with partners. Among its many aims is to increase participation in sport utilising a team of sports coaches working from a mobile multi use resource vehicle and targets key areas of the city.

• **Yorkash Fund** - Funding available to young people's projects aged 11-21. Young people advisors and work to clear criteria to identify eligible groups. Applications come directly from young people and demonstrate how young people benefit



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## Section 4: Priorities/Initiatives/Actions for 2007/08

Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility	Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility	
<b>Section 4: Priorities / Initiatives / Actions for 2007/08</b>	Consultation with local communities	Actively consult with users and partners to ensure service development, making best use of resources, taking into consideration and supporting sustainability, and having an effective feedback process for children and young people to show that their views count.					<p><b>5</b> Consult with APEL users to gain feedback relating to use of equipment and service development e.g. range of equipment.</p> <p><b>6</b> Make links to existing consultation available through the Children's Trust Involvement Group to enhance Play Teams service development and inform the future development of the Taking Play Forward Policy.</p>	Annual	APEL Coordinator	
		<p><b>1</b> Devise a new evaluate method for the Schools Out each holiday period with C&amp;YP, parents, carers and activity organisers</p>	6 Times per year	Activities coordinator					Ongoing	Play Manager and Play Team
		<p><b>2</b> Consult with a variety of organisations from voluntary, community, professional and commercial sector through the Play partnership meetings on services and funding available through the play team.</p>	Ongoing	Play Team						
		<p><b>3</b> Directly consult with YP accessing the Street Sport York through sessions provided to develop service delivery i.e. range of activities</p>	Ongoing	Street Sport York team						
		<p><b>4</b> Continue to consult with BME C,YP and their parents to identify needs to develop mainstream or tailored provisions, through the Cultural Diversity project</p>	Ongoing	Cultural Diversity Dev worker		Further develop links with existing and new partner organisations	<p>Continue to build on existing relationships and continue to identify new partners to achieve outcomes</p> <p><b>1</b> Directly work with CVS 0-19 development worker, working with C&amp;YP organisations from the voluntary and community sector</p> <p><b>2</b> Attend and contribute to the Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership</p>	Ongoing	Play Tei	
								4 times per year	Play Team	

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Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Extended Services Develop 8 Integrated Children's Centres as models of excellent provision and examples of effective working practice	Identify and influence the role of Play in the Extended School agenda  1 Provide advice and support to schools to achieve some or all of the 5 core elements for Extended Services relating to Play  2 Provide advice and support to Children's Centres in the development of Play opportunities	Ongoing  4 times per year	Play Team  Play Team
	Communicate news, info and good practice to providers, families and communities and other stakeholders	Increased profile of the Play Team regionally and nationally  1. Increase awareness of all projects and initiatives of the Play Team through local media  2. Contribute to Shared Foundation Newsletter	Ongoing  4 times per year	Play team  Play team
	Raise the profile of Play work and those working with children and young people	Linked to the Work force Development Strategy increase awareness and profile of children and young people's workforce  1. Include a profile focus feature in Schools Out  2. Promote Play Training and seek out funding to support bursaries for the sector	June 2007 Ongoing February 2007	Play Manager Activities Coordinator and Recruitment and Retention Co-ordinator

Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
<b>Enjoy and Achieve</b>	Promote activities and initiatives provided by the Play Team and their partners	Provide information about the activities and provision relating to children and young people  1. Through Schools Out and other publications produced by the team  2. Make links with CIS,Yortime and Yorok to develop service directory and website  Consult on the appropriateness of current information and develop future information in line with the results of the consultation  1. Review current format of all publications produced by the team  Provide information relating to training for providers to enable them to provide safe, accessible and inclusive environments for play and leisure activities  1. Make links to the LCCS training team to ensure appropriate play and related training are on offer  2. Develop in partnership with Sports Partnership produce training and support resource relating to Play Time activities	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  March 2007 onwards	Play Team  Play Team  Play Team  Play Team  Play Team

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Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Ensure quality play and leisure opportunities	Promote the importance of Play, Children's rights and other relevant legalisation are included in providers policy and practices		
		<b>1</b> Promote the newly revised Taking Play Forward and support organisations to sign up to and implement the policy in line with LAA, PI	March 2007 onwards	Play Team
		<b>2</b> Support groups to develop high quality outside play provision	Ongoing	Play Team
		<b>3</b> Promote and enable partners to create opportunities for open, accessible free-play and adventure play	Ongoing	Play Team
		<b>4</b> Provide training both to outside agencies eg. Family Learning and York College and APEL members	Ongoing	APEL Coordinator
		<b>5</b> Support and offer guidance to providers relating to QA schemes including Steps to Quality	Ongoing	Play Team
		<b>6</b> Direct and utilise Yorok system of self assessment with support from CVS worker	Ongoing	Play Team

Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Set up provision in areas of disadvantage and for hard to reach families	Ensure that all providers are aware of the support necessary to provide opportunities for looked after children, children with special needs, ethnic minority groups and families who are hard to reach		
		<b>1.</b> Evaluate the Cultural Diversity Projects DVD and calendar with OSS, schools and leisure settings	August 2006	Cultural Diversity Dev Worker
		<b>2.</b> Liaise with LAC steering group to develop play and leisure opportunities	Ongoing	Activities Co-ordinator
		<b>3.</b> Continue to provide support sessions to the Travelling community through the Street Sport York project	Ongoing	APEL Co-ordi
		<b>4.</b> Continue to support the Chinese Cultural Association, Cultural group and other groups identified through the Cultural Diversity Project	March 07 - 08	Play Ma and Cul Diversit Worker
		<b>5.</b> Continue to work with agencies including SNAPPY to promote play opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.	Ongoing	Play Team



Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Increased involvement from target groups	<p>Develop Partnership opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Develop partnership with schools in relation to effective distribution of Schools Out</li> </ol> <p>Links to Cultural Diversity Project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Work to support BME communities member to self organise, access information and develop strategic influence</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Activity Coordinator</p>
	Cultural Diversity Project	<p>Increase number of Black &amp; Minority Ethnic children and young people accessing services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Raise the profile of project with a wider range of agencies</li> <li>2 Support BME communities to develop activities and access funding</li> <li>3 Support BME communities to access mainstream activities</li> </ol> <p>Resource kits for Out of School clubs and leisure providers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Continue to roll out the Cultural Resource kits and NCEM story sacks to OOS and leisure settings to raise awareness</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Cultural Diversity Dev Worker and Play Manager</p>

Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Remove barriers to achievement	<p>Ensure all settings are inclusive to all users</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Make links with Development Team in the development of play team projects</li> </ol>	<p>March 2007</p>	<p>Play Team &amp; Dev Team</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Support for services to ensure sustainability and further development of new and existing initiatives.	<p>Assess the SLA process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Revise awarding process for Service Level Agreements to comply with standard financial regulation requirements in relation to the Play Grant</li> </ol> <p>Explore potential funding streams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Apply to the March round of the Big Lottery Fund of Children's Play Initiative</li> <li>2 Explore other funding opportunities relating to play and leisure</li> </ol> <p>Continue to develop the Yorkash project in partnership with Youth Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Evaluate with young people Yorkash projects 2006/07</li> <li>2 Recruit new panel of YP</li> <li>3 Continue to operate scheme with new award AQA modules for YP</li> </ol>	<p>Nov 2006 - March 2007</p> <p>March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 07 onwards</p> <p>April 2007</p> <p>April 2007 onwards</p>	<p>Play Manager, Play Team and Business Support</p> <p>Play Ma</p> <p>Play Te</p> <p>Play Manager, Voices and Influence Coordinator</p>



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Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
	Increase participation of children and young people in play and leisure activities	<p>Provide a range of play and leisure opportunities through the Play Team and their partners - e.g. School's Out, Street Sport York etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Continue to provide the Street Sport York and look into the sustainability of the project beyond 2008.</li> <li>2 Continue to develop the Schools Out programme with increased focus on targeted groups.</li> <li>3 Continue to develop the Cultural Diversity Project and devise an exit strategy beyond 2008.</li> <li>4 Continue to celebrate National Play Day in conjunction with the York's Play Sector</li> </ol>	<p>March 07 onwards</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2007 - 2008</p> <p>August 2007</p>	<p>Apel Coordinator, Play Manager, Community Leisure Officer</p> <p>Cultural Diversity Dev Work, Play Manager</p> <p>Play Team</p>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	Monitor provision to ensure needs of families and communities are identified and met	<p>Make links to Involvement strategy to feed into and glean information relating to consultation with children and young people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Work with PMP relating to developments of the open spaces audit.</li> </ol>	<p>February 2007 - May 2007</p>	<p>Play Manager</p>
	Monitor effective use of resources	<p>Utilise resources appropriately</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitor all budgets and grants</li> <li>2. Monitor Service Level Agreements</li> <li>3. Liaise with planning and Parks regarding Section 106 monies</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Business Support, Play Team</p> <p>Play Team, Planning, Parks</p>

Priority	Initiative	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
<b>Service Development</b>	Develop the Play Team and services	<p>Staff development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Continue to develop the team through appraisals, training days, away days, informal and formal briefings/meeting</li> </ol> <p>Sourcing appropriate services for children and young people</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Commission outside agencies where appropriate for the undertaking of activities / events on behalf of the Play Team</li> <li>2 Develop the Lifestyle project in partnership with North Yorkshire Police, Neighbourhood Pride, Youth Service and CVS which is linked to the "V" Project.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>February 2007 - onwards</p>	<p>Play Team</p> <p>Play Manager Play Team</p> <p>Play Team</p>
	Raising the profile of Play	<p>Influence the development of local and national issues, through initiatives, information and good working practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Attendance, contribution and networking at regional &amp; national events /conferences</li> <li>2 Member of the team to be Director of Yorkshire Play</li> <li>3 Chair of Yorkshire and Humber Regional Toy Library Network</li> <li>4 Contribute to the development of the Youth Offer in York.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Play Team Reps</p> <p>Play Team Reps</p> <p>Play Team Reps</p> <p>Play Manager</p>

## 36 Taking Play Forward

### The Taking Play Forward Partnership - Annex 7

#### Mission Statement

The Taking Play Forward Partnership recognises that play and leisure is an essential part of each and every child's culture and quality of life. The Partnership offers a context for exploring and re-addressing the challenges that restrict play and leisure opportunities for children and young people as they learn and develop as valued members of our changing communities

#### The Taking Play Forward Partnership aims to:

- 1 promote and develop 'Taking Play Forward' - a policy for play, leisure and cultural opportunities for children and young people in York.
- 2 ensure the development and implementation of a collective vision and responsive strategy for play, leisure and cultural services across all communities within York
- 3 enable the promotion of a sense of place, of belonging and of civic pride, as well as individual self-esteem and self-confidence and playful communities.

#### The Taking Play Forward Partnership aims to:

- 1 Organise a variety of inclusive play, leisure and cultural opportunities
- 2 undertake an audit of play and leisure time opportunities available to children and young people across the City
- 3 identify individuals, internal City of York teams and external organisations which directly and indirectly affect the rights of all children and young people to play, leisure and cultural opportunities and their right to be consulted

- 4 help groups and organisations identify and source potential funding for play, leisure and cultural projects for children and young people
- 5 produce an inclusive Playtimes booklet outlining play, leisure and cultural opportunities for children and young people across the City
- 6 Promote a range of inclusive play, leisure, art and cultural opportunities for children and young people
- 7 support a range of inclusive play, leisure and cultural events organised by other organisations and CYC departments
- 8 respond to local, regional and national consultations which have an impact on children and young people's play, leisure and cultural opportunities

#### Membership

Membership of the Taking Play Forward Partnership is open to:

- 1 individuals and organisations who can demonstrate their commitment to developing inclusive play, leisure and cultural opportunities for children and young people across the City of York authority boundaries
- 2 individuals and organisations who are willing to contribute to the remit of the Partnership and work within its established protocols
- 3 invited Taking Play Forward Partners for the duration of specific commissioned projects and activities

If you would like to know more about the partnership and other support networks for children and young person providers please contact the Play Team on 01904 554699.

#### Numbers of Play providers and Partners in York listed by category (provided by Children's Information Service 2007):

Child Minders	255
Creche	4
Non Registered Playschemes	2
Day Nurseries	41
Holiday Playschemes	37
Maintained Nursery School Class	20
Nursery Unit in an Independent School	5
Out of Schools Clubs	41
Parent and Toddler Groups	79
Playgroups	44
School (including extended schools)	72
Soft Play	4
Under 5 activities	27
Other providers of play/leisure opportunities featured in the City of York Councils Schools Out, school holiday programme, including Youth service, Sport and Leisure, Arts, Parks and Libraries and Professional, Commercial, Community, Voluntary, Statutory and Freelance providers	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>



### Criteria for an enriched play environment - Annex 8

The following criteria for an enriched play environment are adapted from those given in Hughes (1996a). The examples given for each section are in no sense exhaustive, merely indicative.

Play provision should provide opportunities for:

- **A varied and interesting physical environment.**  
Examples: things at different levels, spaces of different sizes, places to hide, trees and bushes as well as things that have been made, places to inspire mystery and imagination.
- **Challenge in relation to the physical environment.**  
Examples: activities which test the limits of capabilities, rough and tumble, sports and games, chase.
- **Playing with natural elements - earth, water, fire, air.**  
Examples: campfires, digging, playing snowballs, flying kites.
- **Movement - e.g. running, jumping, rolling, climbing, balancing.**  
Examples: beams and ropes, soft mats, bike riding, juggling equipment, ladders, space.
- **Manipulating natural and fabricated materials.**  
Examples: materials for art, cooking, making and mending of all kinds; building dens; making concoctions; using tools; access to bits and pieces of all kinds.
- **Stimulation of the five senses.**  
Examples: music making, places where shouting is fine, quite places, different colours and shapes, dark and bright spaces, cooking on a camp fire, rotting leaves, a range of food and drink, objects that are soft, prickly, flexible, large and small.

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- **Experiencing change in the natural and built environment.**

Examples: experiencing the seasons through access to the outdoor environment, opportunities to take part in building, demolishing, or transforming the environment.

- **Social interactions.**

Examples: being able to choose weather and when to play alone or with others, to negotiate, co-operate, compete and resolve conflicts. Being able to interact with individuals and groups of different ages, abilities, interests, gender, ethnicity and culture.

- **Playing with identity.**

Examples: dressing up, role-play, performing, taking on different kinds of responsibility.

- **Experiencing a range of emotions.**

Examples: opportunities to be powerful/powerless, scared/confident, liked/disliked, in/out of control, brave/cowardly



## Taking Play Forward Action Plan - Annex 9

### Play Policy

What we've done	Where we're going	How	When
After a wide consultation with users, development workers and providers of play - the play policy for York was launched in 2002.	Review of policy is taking place in 2006 to coincide with government priorities e.g. Children and Young People's Plan, Every Child Matters, Better Play Objectives.  Plan to review the play policy every 5 years in line with new legislation.  Revisit and identify new priorities after review.	There will be ongoing monitoring and reviewing of the impact on the policy.  Members of the Play Team to produce and update policy.	Present the draft play policy by Oct 2006
Made links with existing CYC local and national networks and relevant policy documents e.g. cultural strategy.	In the review, make reference to the new directives and continue to strengthen links with new and existing networks e.g. Taking Play Forward Partnership, CYC and others.	Keeping partners informed of developments through good communication links eg EMAP, EYESP, CJMG, TPFPP.	Aug 2006 and t ongoing
2002 policy makes reference to the play policy performance indicators.	Adopt and work with Play Council to recognise and include the new developing play indicators as recommended in the consultation report March 2006.  Give guidance, information and support to play settings.	Meet with other CYC sections to measure impact of existing PI's.	March 2006, then ongoing

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## Play Strategy

What we've done	Where we're going	How	When
<p>A strategy was produced in 2002 which detailed delivery of the policy</p> <p>Formed 'Taking Play Forward Partnership' (TPFP) with a membership of play and leisure providers</p> <p>Formation of a designated Play Team (Jan 05) to deliver the ethos of Taking Play Forward</p>	<p>A review of the current strategy to accompany review of the current policy</p>	<p>Produce a SMART working strategy</p> <p>Consult with users, development workers and providers and collate, share good practise and information through established networks e.g. EYESP</p> <p>Network through partnership and committee meetings</p> <p>Encourage "play exchanges" between settings to explore ideas and difficulties</p> <p>Use questionnaires and consultation activities effectively</p> <p>Collect information and keep up to date with changes. Pass on to CIS so that they can log the information onto the CIS/YOROK website and database</p>	<p>September 06 and ongoing</p>
<p>Clear links have been established to develop sections of the strategy</p> <p>Play grants have been delivered to new and existing play settings through the Taking Play Forward Policy</p>	<p>Develop links with organisations eg Children's Trust to ensure policies have a shared vision</p> <p>Continue to support, inform and monitor the play grant scheme</p>	<p>Quality networking and sharing of information / data</p> <p>Have information available in different formats and visual aids to help better understanding of the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 06 and ongoing</p>

<p>inline with the quality systems e.g. OFSTED Voluntary Sector Compact and the Better Play Objectives</p>	<p>Play Policy</p> <p>Maintain regular contact with providers that are involved and offer support</p> <p>Encourage involvement in the policy welcoming ideas, suggestions and views</p> <p>Monitor provider's progress against Better Play Objectives</p>		
<p>Officially launched policy in 2003 and have continually celebrated the policy through the School's Out programme and National Play Day</p>	<p>Continue to celebrate the Taking Play Forward Policy through Play Days and National Play Day</p>	<p>Hold National Play Day each year - (the first Wednesday in August)</p> <p>Have at least one Play Day during the year</p>	<p>Aug and Feb ea year</p>

## Audit

What we've done	Where we're going	How	When
<p>Completed a base line audit of play places and provision through CIS and Extended Schools</p>	<p>Develop and extend the range of information held to include the 'Open Spaces Audit' and other relevant CYC data sources</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring and reviewing of services</p>	<p>Liaise with appropriate partners and maintain communication links</p> <p>Update appropriate websites, especially YorOK, with relevant information</p>	<p>Sept 06 and ongoing</p>

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## Implementation

What we've done	Where we're going	How	When
Supported the development of new play opportunities	Provide a wide range of play opportunities through Play Team projects and initiatives in collaboration with other play partners, and market these through 'School's Out' and the Shared Foundation newsletter	Develop services in line with consultations with service users and also corporate service plans eg Children's Services Plan	Ongoing
Built up a bank of resources through APEL and CDP	Promotion of availability of resources such as the range of play equipment (APEL), cultural resources kits (CDP) and DVD (CDP), and development of new resources	Visits to play providers and settings  Advertisements in newsletters and contained in relevant mailouts	Ongoing
Formation of 'Yorkshire Play' – a new company developed to promote play and training in its widest sense. A representative of the Play Team is a Director	Work in partnership with Yorkshire Play to develop strategic methods to glean from and feed into local and national policy  Host regional events as appropriate	Member of Play Team sits on board of directors and feeds information in and out	April 06 and ongoing – meets bi-monthly
Liaise with play providers across the city to help identify play training needs in collaboration with other support teams eg Development team, Quality Assurance (EYESS)	Findings will be fed to the training and development unit and other outside training agencies to formulate training to meet the needs of associated play sector	Continue to gain feedback and monitor training needs  Promote and endorse training opportunities available to the sector e.g. through training directory	Ongoing

## Background Papers - Annex 10

- **Our Future** – A plan for the Children and Young People of York 1997 – 2000
- **The York Local Agenda 21 Plan** (adopted by City of York Council, March 2000)
- **'Grants to Voluntary Organisations'** Scrutiny topic - Scrutiny Board (Partnerships) 7 May 2002
- **'Taking Play Forward – A Proposed Policy And Strategy For Play In The City Of York'**
- **Paper to Education and Leisure Strategy Team** 20 May 2002
- **Leisure and Heritage Executive Briefing** 21 May 2002
- **Paper to Education and Leisure Strategy Team** 19 September 2002
- **Play as Culture** – incorporating play in cultural strategies  
PLAYLINK 2002 ISBN 0953566544
- **Special Place, Special People:** a cultural framework for North Yorkshire consultation draft
- **BV114 Adoption of a local cultural strategy** – DTLR consultation document
- **Making the Case for Play** - Building Policies and Strategies for school-age children  
Children's Play Council (2002)
- **'Best Play: What play provision should do for children'**, National Playing Fields Association, Children's Play Council and PLAYLINK 2000
- **'Mind the Gap'** – draft consultation report from York Special Families (Inclusion sub-group)
- **'Playing Fair – a guide to tackling discrimination'** (Early Years Network / Save the Children Fund 1995)

- **'It doesn't just happen: inclusive management for inclusive play'** – Kidsactive 2002
- **'New Charter for Children's Play'** – Children's Play Council, National Children's Bureau, London 1998
- **Working Together** – Delivering Best Value 2002 – 2003 (City of York Council 2002)
- **'Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage'** - DfES Ref: QCA/00/587 May 2000
- **Planning for Play** – Children's Play Council March 2006
- **Without Wall's York's Local Area Agreement** 2007 – 2010 1st draft
- **Council Plan and Best Value Performance Plan** 2006/07
- **Getting Serious About Play** 2004
- **York's Children and Young People's Plan** 2005 – 2008
- **York's Physical Activity Plan** 2006
- **Time for Play** – Department for Culture M and Sport 2006



### York Sites Identified For Development As A Result Of The Playbuilder Initiative

Ward	Site
Naburn	Vicarage Lane – Village Hall
Elvington	Sports Field
Bishopthorpe	Keble Park
Skelton	Brecksfield
Haxby	Mancroft
Holgate	Balfour Street – Back Park
Huntington	Orchard Park
Copmanthorpe	Recreation Ground
Acomb	Viking Road
Clifton	Ashton Avenue
Westfield	Chesneys Field / Gale Lane

Ward	Site
Heworth / Heworth Without	Monk / Heworth Stray
Holgate	Garnett Terrace
Hull Road	Badger Hill
Bell Farm	Byland Avenue
Heworth	Barfield Road
Strensall	Exact location to be confirmed
Guildhall	Exact location to be confirmed
Derwent	Exact location to be confirmed
Holgate	Sowerby Road
Westfield	Chaplefields area
Woodthorpe	Exact location to be confirmed

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