

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	4 November 2011
Title:	Play Strategy for Hampshire
Reference:	3342
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation to approve the Play Strategy for Hampshire which has been developed over the last two years.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1 In January 2009 a consultation event was held in Basingstoke with various partners in play and childcare, including play officers in District and Borough Councils and play workers in child care provision, e.g. after school clubs.
- 2.2 As a result of the event a draft Play Strategy for Hampshire was produced with the recommendation that a full time Strategy Co-ordinator be recruited in order to implement the strategy across Hampshire. The post was filled in July 2010 with a fixed contract period of three years, jointly funded by Children's Services and Culture, Communities and Business Services. One of the first tasks of the Play Strategy Co-ordinator was to finalise the Play Strategy for Hampshire.
- 2.3 The Strategy will be a reference point for all partners whose work promotes the health and wellbeing of children and their families in Hampshire.
- 2.4 The Strategy:
- Guides the work of all partners involved in promoting Early Years Physical Activity, healthy weight management for children and play for children aged 0 -19 years.

- Implements a strategic approach to physical activity and play through Hampshire Play Network, Hampshire County Council and its partners.
- Encourages planners in District and Borough Councils and Parish Councils to provide quality play opportunities in their areas.
- Supports communities at a local level whose work sets out to realise the importance of quality play opportunities.
- Enables partners to access strategic direction in order to implement physical activity and play as a means to improve access to healthy weight management, improve community cohesion, reduce anti social behaviour and improve the physical and mental well being of children aged 0 -19 years.

3. Recommendation

That the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation supports the publication and implementation of the Play Strategy for Hampshire.

Integral Appendix A

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. No adverse impact on any group of people has been identified. The strategy is designed to be accessible to all sections of the community. Where any inequalities in participation are identified in the delivery of the strategy, specific interventions will be made to address these, for example the wellbeing fund has been used to address health inequalities amongst vulnerable families and the Forest Bus is a project supported by CIS grants to support Gypsy and Traveller children to access quality play opportunities.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. Anti Social Behaviour reduction, improved community cohesion and sense of wellbeing for communities and individuals. Advocate for children's play spaces to be kept clean, well lit, and maintained therefore creating safer and aesthetically pleasing environments.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Impact may be identified where people are encouraged to walk or cycle instead of using their car as part of an active lifestyle.

Natural play spaces to be identified and maintained in a way in which promotes environmental awareness i.e.- clearing copses in communities and schools to create natural play spaces instead of building fixed metal play sites.