

# Appendix 1

## Sedgemoor Play Partnership

### Terms of Reference

- To assist with the development of a “Play Strategy” for the District
- To provide the consultants Leisure and the Environment (L and E) with information and background material relating to local play and youth provision (facilities and services). E.g. existing consultation material and relevant policy and strategy documents.
- To supply Land E with available material and information to assist with the audit/mapping and consultation processes.
- To comment and advise on the BIG Lottery funding bid to the Children’s Play Programme including help with agreeing priorities for inclusion in the “portfolio” of projects to benefit from lottery funding.
- To help promote and publicise the strategy process
- To assist with the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of the strategy over the 5 years of its scope.

## APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

### Protection of Recreational Open Space

- 11.08** The Local Plan seeks to resist the loss of existing recreational open space. Land to be protected includes:
- a) outdoor sports facilities (playing fields, sports grounds, tennis courts etc.) including not only Local Authority sites but also private and education sector sites if the facilities are available for public use, whether through a membership scheme or otherwise.
  - b) children's playing space (equipped play grounds, kick-about areas and other play areas); and
  - c) other public open space and recreation sites, including ornamental parks/gardens, allotments, village greens and fishing lakes.
- 11.09** To aid interpretation of this Policy most of these sites are identified on the Proposals Map, using information derived from District Council sources and a survey of Parish Councils. Further details of the survey are set out in a Local Plan Background Paper "Review of Playing Fields, Play areas and Open Spaces".
- 11.10** Sites in categories (a) and (b) above are directly relevant to the assessment of outdoor playing space against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) "Six Acre Standard" which recommends that a minimum of 2.4 hectares (6.0 acres) per 1,000 population should be available. The NPFA guidance further recommends that this should be comprised of 1.6 hectares (4 acres) for outdoor sport and 0.8 hectares (2 acres) for Children's Playing Space. Existing provision in Sedgemoor Parishes is summarised at [Appendix 11.1](#).
- 11.11** The NPFA defines outdoor playing space as: "space which is available for sport, active recreation or children's play, which is of suitable size and nature for its intended purpose, safely accessible and available to the general public". This definition excludes such things as:
- golf facilities;
  - indoor sports or leisure centres;
  - water used for recreation; and
  - verges, woodlands, commons, ornamental parks and gardens.
- 11.12** These types of facility or open space cannot be regarded as substitutes for elements of the NPFA standard, but make a valuable contribution to the total recreational provision of communities in the area. Their availability may be particularly relevant as a mitigating circumstance if there is a local deficiency of outdoor playing space.
- 11.13** This Local Plan Policy seeks to safeguard the existing levels of outdoor playing space. Separate proposals aim to address specific deficiencies.
- 11.14** In accordance with legislation, the District Council will consult the English Sports Council as statutory consultees on any application that is on land which has been:
- a) used as a playing field (a site of at least 0.4 hectares encompassing at least one playing pitch) at any time in the five years before the application and which remains undeveloped; or
  - b) allocated for use as a playing field in the Local Plan; or

c) involves the replacement of the surface of the grass playing pitch with a synthetic pitch.

**POLICY RLT1**

**Development which would result in the loss of recreational open space will not be permitted unless:**

**a) the existing sports and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; or**

**b) a replacement facility of equivalent sports and/or recreation benefit is made available; or**

**c) the proposed development provides sports and/or recreation facilities of greater benefit than the long-term recreational value of the open space that would be lost.**

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## **Provision of Outdoor Playing Space for Children in Association with New Residential Development**

- 11.15** The Local Plan seeks to provide outdoor play space based on the recommendations of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) which call for the provision of different types of play areas for a range of age groups. Chapter 4 (pages 19-37) of the NPFA publication “The Six Acre Standard: Minimum Standards for Outdoor Playing Space (2001)” provides detailed and illustrated guidance on the siting, accessibility, content and layout of such sites. A summary including the definition of ‘LAP’, ‘LEAP’ and ‘NEAP’ is set out at [Appendix 11.2](#).
- 11.16** The Local Plan Policy on “Outdoor Playing Space for Children” is intended to ensure that all new residential developments meet the NPFA minimum standards so that the successive generations of children have adequate opportunities for outdoor play. As settlements grow it is important to maintain:
- a) an appropriate total amount of playspace land; and
  - b) appropriate local accessibility.
- 11.17** The developers of new sites cannot be required to make good any existing local deficiencies of playspace provision but they will be required to meet needs arising from their development. In overall terms the NPFA “Six Acre Standard” recommends that there should be 0.8 hectares of playspace per 1,000 population; this can be translated to a need to ensure that for every new house built, 20m<sup>2</sup> of new playspace is created. Where possible the Council will expect this provision to be made on-site by the developer, together with provision of appropriate equipment, landscaping and commuted sums to cover future maintenance. NPFA guidance suggests that a LAP should be provided on any development of 15 (or more) houses and a LEAP will be needed on sites of 50 (or more) houses. Provision of a NEAP will usually be off-site but contributions to the cost of establishing such a facility will be required.
- 11.18** In practice this could, for example, mean that a developer proposing to build 30 houses will provide a LAP on site (which directly contributes around 100m<sup>2</sup> to the stock of playspace) and meet the balance of the 600m<sup>2</sup> additional space the development needs by financial contribution to a fund for land acquisition and creation of LEAP and NEAP facilities elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

**POLICY RLT2**

All new housing which can potentially be occupied by households with children should include appropriate provision for children's outdoor playing space. In determining the form of facilities to be provided, account will be taken of the nature of existing facilities in the vicinity but provision should normally be to the following standards:

a) increase the stock of children's play space at a rate of 20 square metres per new dwelling; and

b) in the case for a site for 15 or more dwellings, a suitable range of play spaces should be equipped and accessible as follows:

i) all new houses to be within 100 metres of a "Local Area for Play" (LAP); and

ii) all new houses to be within 400 metres of a "Local Equipped Area for Play" (LEAP); and

iii) all new houses to be within 1000 metres of a "Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).

Where the requirement for play space cannot be fully met on site, the developer will be expected to make provision for appropriate new or improved off-site facilities.

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## **Provision of Outdoor Sport Facilities in Conjunction with New Residential Development**

**11.19** The Local Plan seeks to provide outdoor sports facilities based on the recommendations of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) as set out in their 2001 publication "The Six Acre Standard: Minimum Standards for Outdoor Playing Space". The NPFA recommend that outdoor playing space for sport should be to a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares per 1,000 population. This translates to a need to ensure that for every new house built, 40m<sup>2</sup> of extra land for outdoor sports facilities should be found (calculation assumes average household size of 2.5 persons).

**11.20** The NPFA expect their minimum standard to serve as a target when assessing the adequacy of existing sports provision. The results of our parish-by-parish assessment are summarised at Appendix 11.1, [Table 1](#). The developers of new sites cannot be required to make good any existing local deficiencies, but it is clear that all new development will add incrementally to the demands placed on existing facilities for youth and adult use. The most widespread facilities are football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens. Archery, athletics tracks and training grounds etc are also relevant but golf courses are not eligible for inclusion. The NPFA recognise that there is no precise way of predicting the sporting and physical recreation preferences and choices of those who will move into new developments. However, the clear purpose of setting a minimum standard is to ensure that the stock of land available for sport at the local level increases, if settlements are expanding.

**11.21** In the case of large development sites it may be appropriate that the space for outdoor sport is provided on-site, perhaps as an element of a local park, but in most instances the provision will be off-site. A developer may be able to fulfil his obligation by providing a suitable site or

alternatively will be required to pay money into a fund for site acquisition and development, including changing facilities, drainage and landscaping as appropriate. These matters will be addressed in further detail in a supplementary planning guidance document.

- 11.22** In some areas the Local Plan has identified and allocated a preferred site. In other localities, where a suitable field for future outdoor sports use, could conceivably be found, at any one of several locations, no specific allocation is made in the Local Plan.

**POLICY RLT3**

**All new housing developments will normally be expected to contribute towards the provision of outdoor sites for sport at a rate of 40 square metres per dwelling. In determining the nature of the provision required, account will be taken of the type of dwellings proposed and the quantity and quality of existing outdoor sports provision in the area.**

## APPENDIX 11.1

### Outdoor Sports and Children's Playing Space : Review of existing facilities in Sedgemoor

This Appendix summarises the results of a survey of facilities in the District. Further details are available in a Local Plan Background Paper "Review of Playing Fields, Play Areas and Open Spaces" (June 1999).

The original survey was carried out in 1998/9, and set out to assess provision in the District against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) "6 acre standard". At its broadest level, the survey allows us to assess on a parish-by-parish basis whether NPFA targets for the total amount of "outdoor playing space" are achieved. Such results are shown below in Table 1, but a more localised interpretation of the actual play and sport opportunities available and of accessibility could reveal other deficiencies even in parishes that might appear to have adequate land.

Sites relevant to this survey will be protected under the provisions of [Policy RLT1](#) and are amongst the sites identified on the Proposals Map.

The initial key findings of the assessment of total available "outdoor playing space" are:

Bridgwater has a significant deficiency of outdoor sports facilities. Relevant sites within the parish boundary total less than 30 hectares, whereas the NPFA target for a town of this size is 54.26 hectares. Even when six sports facilities located in adjacent parishes are added in, the total remains less than 39 hectares - or about 70% of the NPFA target.

To meet NPFA standards Bridgwater requires about 15 hectares of additional outdoor sports facilities. Anticipated population growth arising from around 3,000 new houses (from existing commitments at Northern Distributor Road, South Bridgwater, other permissions and forecast brownfield sites) which could be built by the year 2011 will be in the region of 7,500. This will generate a need for about a further 12 hectares.

According to NPFA standards Bridgwater may therefore need a total of 27 hectares of additional outdoor sports space by the year 2011.

**Bridgwater does not have a satisfactory total supply of children's play space (22.07 hectares compared with a target of 27.13 hectares) and local accessibility and adequacy of equipped play areas is variable.**

Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge outdoor sports facilities are about 20% below NPFA targets (23.64 hectares compared with a target of 29.44 hectares).

**Children's play space at Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge exceeds NPFA targets (16 hectares compared with a target of 14.72 hectares).**

**Cheddar's** outdoor sports facilities exceed NPFA targets (14.7 hectares compared with a target of 8.15 hectares) but **children's play space is deficient (1.25 hectares compared with a target of 4.07 hectares).**

The figures are presented on a parish basis but sports pitch catchments and some play facility catchments may cross boundaries. Therefore, such statistics are not necessarily a conclusive guide to the adequacy of provision. In the rural parishes the range of sport opportunities may be very limited (i.e. in small parishes a single cricket pitch may be the sole facility but create an apparent excess of provision).

A Playing Pitch Strategy for the District was commissioned in 2004 (publication anticipated

2005) and may become a further source of information.

**Table 1 Outdoor Sports and Children's Playing Space: Summary of existing provision in Sedgemoor Parishes**

This table summarises the results of assessment against the National Playing Field Association "Six Acre Standard", which recommends that there should be 2.4 hectares of playing field per 1000 population comprising:-

a) 1.6 hectares of outdoor playing space for sport, and

b) 0.8 hectares of children's playing space.

Parish	Population	Outdoor Sport		Children's Play Area		Total		
		Target (ha)	Actual (ha)	Target (ha)	Actual (ha)	Target (ha)	Actual (ha)	%
Ashcott	1248	2.00	1.88	1.00	0.15	3.00	2.03	67.78
Axbridge	2025	3.24	1.80	1.62	0.71	4.86	2.51	51.65
Badgworth	452	0.72	0.27	0.36	0.13	1.08	0.40	36.87
Bawdrip	485	0.78	0.00	0.39	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.00
Berrow	1638	2.62	4.14	1.31	1.23	3.93	5.37	136.60
Brean	691	1.11	0.00	0.55	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.00
Brent Knoll	1252	2.00	2.05	1.00	0.27	3.00	2.32	77.21
Bridgwater	33915	54.26	30.55	27.13	22.27	81.40	52.62	64.65
Bridgwater Without	400	0.64	2.87	0.32	0.00	0.96	2.87	298.96
Broomfield	208	0.33	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Burnham & Highbridge	18401	29.44	23.64	14.72	16.08	44.16	39.72	89.94
Burnham Without	798	1.28	0.00	0.64	0.00	1.92	0.00	0.00
Burtle	402	0.64	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.96	0.00	0.00
Cannington	2381	3.81	6.05	1.90	1.49	5.71	7.54	131.95
Catcott	502	0.80	0.00	0.40	0.06	1.20	0.06	4.98
Chapel Allerton	348	0.56	1.53	0.28	0.00	0.84	1.53	183.19
Cheddar	5093	8.15	14.74	4.07	1.25	12.22	15.99	130.82
Chedzoy	429	0.69	0.52	0.34	0.07	1.03	0.59	57.30
Chilton Polden	668	1.07	1.69	0.53	0.57	1.60	2.26	140.97
Chilton Trinity	209	0.33	2.51	0.17	0.00	0.50	2.51	500.40
Compton Bishop	581	0.93	0.00	0.46	0.00	1.39	0.00	0.00
Cossington	552	0.88	1.73	0.44	0.03	1.32	1.76	132.85
Durleigh	556	0.89	0.00	0.44	0.13	1.33	0.13	9.74
East Brent	1298	2.08	0.00	1.04	0.50	3.12	0.50	16.05
East Huntspill	1152	1.84	1.49	0.92	0.52	2.76	2.01	72.70
Edington	337	0.54	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00
Enmore	233	0.37	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00
Fiddington	236	0.38	0.00	0.19	0.79	0.57	0.79	139.48
Goathurst	235	0.38	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00
Greinton	79	0.13	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
Lympsham	864	1.38	1.30	0.69	0.10	2.07	1.40	67.52
Lyng	324	0.52	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.78	0.00	0.00

Mark	1394	2.23	3.22	1.12	0.13	3.35	3.35	100.13
Middlezoy	723	1.16	1.30	0.58	0.00	1.74	1.30	74.92
Moorlinch	252	0.40	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00
Nether Stowey	1313	2.10	2.24	1.05	0.47	3.15	2.71	86.00
North Petherton	5065	8.10	10.88	4.05	1.97	12.16	12.85	105.71
Othery	575	0.92	0.00	0.46	0.18	1.38	0.18	13.04
Otterhampton	873	1.40	0.80	0.70	4.42	2.10	5.22	249.14
Over Stowey	357	0.57	1.64	0.29	0.11	0.86	1.75	204.25
Pawlett	1066	1.71	2.08	0.85	0.57	2.56	2.65	103.58
Puriton	2033	3.25	3.76	1.63	0.69	4.88	4.45	91.20
Shapwick	509	0.81	1.50	0.41	0.00	1.22	1.50	122.79
Shipham	1022	1.64	1.36	0.82	0.00	2.45	1.36	55.45
Spaxton	1021	1.63	1.47	0.82	0.25	2.45	1.72	70.19
Stawell	365	0.58	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.00
Stockland Bristol	134	0.21	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00
Thurloxton	169	0.27	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00
Weare	654	1.05	0.00	0.52	0.00	1.57	0.00	0.00
Wedmore	3145	5.03	4.35	2.52	0.22	7.55	4.57	60.55
Wembdon	1812	2.90	0.34	1.45	1.13	4.35	1.47	33.80
West Huntspill	1412	2.26	2.42	1.13	0.76	3.39	3.18	93.84
Westonzoyland	1832	2.93	2.64	1.47	0.42	4.40	3.06	69.60
Woolavington	2163	3.46	2.74	1.73	0.88	5.19	3.62	69.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105881</b>	<b>169.41</b>	<b>141.50</b>	<b>84.70</b>	<b>58.35</b>	<b>254.11</b>	<b>199.85</b>	<b>78.65</b>

**Note:-**

The original survey was carried out in 1998/9. Figures in this table have been updated to:-

- i) include 2001 census population figures.
- ii) amend targets to reflect census figures and new (2001) NPFA guidance.
- iii) make corrections to the recorded site information where changes or errors have been identified.



## **Appendix 11.2**

### **Outdoor Playing Space for Children: A Summary of National Playing Fields Association guidance to aid interpretation of Local Plan Policy RLT2 (Based on “The Six Acre Standard” 2001)**

**A Local Area for Play (LAP)** is a small area of open space for young children (mainly up to 6 years old) to play close to where they live. The activity zone should be reasonably flat, have a grass surface, and have a minimum area of 100m<sup>2</sup>. There should be seating for carers and appropriate landscaping/buffer zones.

**A Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)** is a play area equipped for children of early school age (mainly 4-8 year olds). The activity zone should have a minimum area of 400m<sup>2</sup>, with grass playing space and at least five types of play equipment with appropriate safety surfacing. There should also be seating for accompanying adults.

**A Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)** is a play area for mainly older children which should include an area for ball games or wheeled activities, 8 types of play equipment appropriate to children in this age group and seating. This requires an activity zone of at least 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

Buffer zones are necessary around LEAPs and NEAPs in particular to reduce potential disturbance to nearby households. Distances of 10 metres and 30 metres respectively between the edge of the “activity zone” and the boundary of the nearest residential property are recommended. This will mean that the potential total area required for a LEAP may be about 1,600m<sup>2</sup> and for a NEAP 8,400m<sup>2</sup>. These buffer zones could include footpaths and planted areas, planting schemes which create wildlife habitat and thereby add to our stock of accessible natural greenspace within the urban areas will be particularly appropriate (see also [Policy CNE11](#)—urban greenspace network).

Detailed recommendations on play area design can be found in NPFA publications, but the following pointers on siting and design are derived from page 26 of their 2001 publication “The Six Acre Standard”.

As a matter of general practice, children’s play areas should be:

Accessible within the specified walking time:

- Local Area for Play 1 minute (100 metres)
- Local equipped Area for Play 5 minutes (400 metres)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play 15 minutes (1000 metres)

Sited in open, welcoming locations and not be tucked away on backland sites with access via narrow alleys or paths enclosed by high fences.

Separated from areas of major vehicle movements and accessible directly from pedestrian routes.

Sited on land suitable for the types of play opportunity intended. For example, slopes that are too steep for building can provide one kind of experience, but are not suitable for most play equipment. Conversely, a flat area can provide too bland a setting for some types of equipment.

Designed so that high climbing apparatus or equipment on mounds is sited as far as possible from nearby dwellings.

Sufficiently far from dwellings to reduce the likelihood of noise and disturbance, particularly to households without children.

Integrated, as far as possible, with other open spaces and areas of amenity planting to provide appropriate separation from nearby dwellings.

Overlooked from dwellings or pedestrian routes that are well used.

Accessible by footpaths with a firm surface. However, footpaths should not pass through the play area.

Surfaced in a manner that is able to withstand the intensity of use.

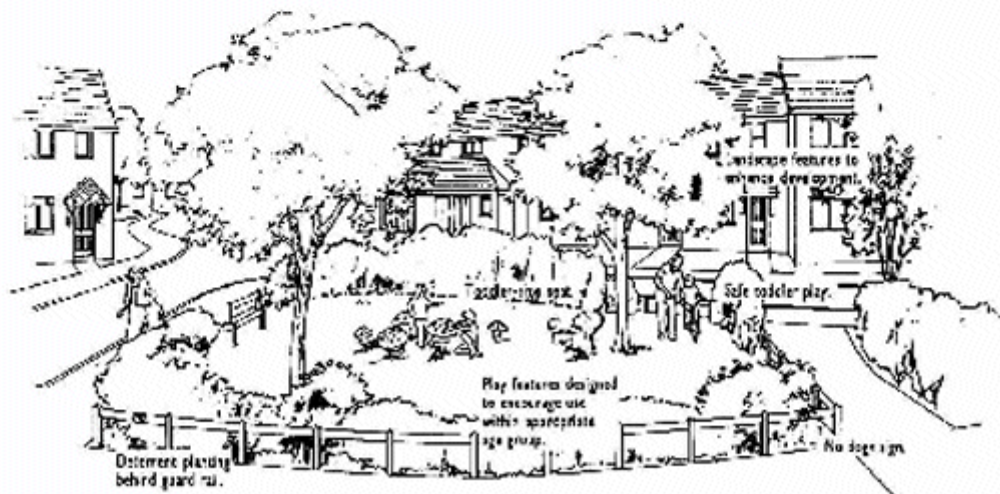
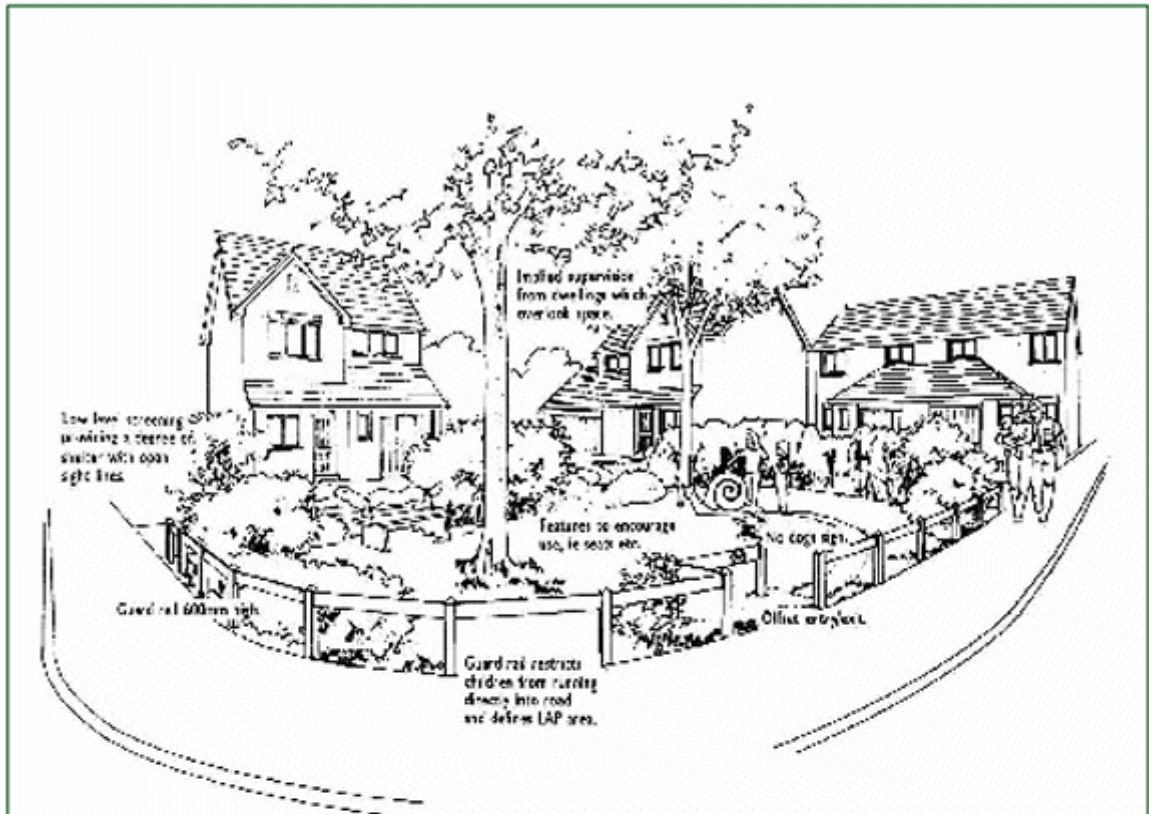
Provided with seating for parents and carers. Where footpaths with a firm surface link adult seating areas to the entrance, their colour or texture should be different to other hard surfaced parts of the play area. The space occupied by these footpaths and planted areas should not normally exceed 10% of the area of the activity zone in order to provide adequate room for children's play.

Fitted with play equipment that has been designed, manufactured, installed and maintained in full accordance with EN1176, EN1177 and BS7188. Fencing, including gates, seating and all other fixtures should similarly be in accordance.

Provided with impact-absorbing surfaces beneath and around all play equipment.

Designed with appropriate physical features on the perimeter of the activity zone to exclude dogs.

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Examples of LAP's

## **Appendix 3 Play and National Policy Initiatives**

### **Youth Matters**

The Youth Matters Green Paper builds on the Every Child Matters outcomes with the intention of reshaping services for young people. The proposals aim to address four key challenges:

- Engage and empower more young people in positive activities
- Encourage more young people to become involved in their communities
- Provision of better information, advice and guidance to young people to enable them to make informed choices
- Provision of better and more personalised support for each young person.

Throughout the Green Paper, there are strong references to the opportunities and contributions that sport can make to these challenges and outcomes, including the proposed national pilot of a Youth Opportunities Card.

### **Extended Schools Initiative**

The government aim that by 2010, all children should have access to a variety of activities at schools beyond the school day.

It is intended that extended schools will provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. The aim is for all schools and children and families to be able to access a core of extended services which are developed in partnership with others.

Extended services can include childcare, adult education, parenting support programmes, community-based health and social care services, multi-agency behaviour support teams and after-school activities.

For primary schools, this will mean working with a range of local providers to enable children and families to have access to extended services.

The expectation is that all secondary schools will be open from 8am-6pm all year around, offering a range of activities for young people. It is not required that all primary schools will offer extended services on their own sites.

## Choosing Health White Paper

The Department of Health's Public Health White Paper sets out action by Government to support the individual to make healthy choices. Its overarching priorities are to:

- Reduce the number of people smoking
- Reduce obesity and improve diet and nutrition
- Increase exercise
- Encourage and support sensible drinking
- Improve sexual health
- Improve mental health.

## Joint area review

Guidance from the Department for Education and Skills suggests that the play strategy should link to the Children and Young People's Plan, helping to meet the requirements of Joint Area Review of the Ofsted Children's Services Inspection framework. This includes the following key judgements in relation to children's enjoyment of play and recreation.

Key Judgements	Evidence
Parents and carers receive support in helping their children to enjoy and achieve.	Targeted guidance and support is provided to parents and carers, in line with their expressed wishes, in helping children and young people to enjoy play, achieve educationally and make productive and enjoyable use of leisure time.
All children and young people can access a range of recreational activities, including play and voluntary learning provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are safe and accessible places where children and young people can play and socialise.</li><li>• A range of affordable, accessible, challenging and rewarding recreational and voluntary learning opportunities is provided.</li><li>• Action is taken to ensure that the cost or availability of transport are not undue barriers to participation in recreational and voluntary learning activities.</li><li>• Recreational and voluntary learning opportunities reflect the needs and interests of individuals as well as groups.</li></ul>

## Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer, Greener

The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce published its report 'Green Spaces, Better Places' in May 2002. The report considers the benefits urban parks and green spaces bring to cities, the problems affecting them and how these can be overcome, some good practice examples and the means of achieving solutions. Fifty-two recommendations were made and the Government has considered these and responded in its document 'Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer,

Greener' (October 2003). Seen in this context, the protection of playspace is now part of a wider environmental agenda.

The report specifically highlights the importance of play areas/youth facilities in relation to health and community safety.

Guidance on how best to plan and provide for children's play has a long pedigree, and goes back to 1920s with the publication of the National Playing Fields Association 'Six Acre Standard'

### **National Planning Guidance**

Originally published in 1991, Planning Policy Guidance note 17– Sport and Recreation (PPG17) recognised the special significance of Play Areas for their recreational and amenity value, urged local planning authorities to recognise their long-term community value and advised that in general terms that they should be protected.

A revised PPG17 (published on 24 July 2002 and entitled 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation') strengthens the need to protect play areas and outdoor youth facilities, and reiterates the need for robust local assessments of need, which take into account quantity, quality and accessibility. Play Areas should be considered in the wider context of open space in general, of which an adequate supply should always be maintained. 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2002, and sets out examples of good practice, advises local authorities on means of delivering good quality open space and play/youth facilities and links to the Best Value agenda and the management and maintenance of facilities.

The guidance highlights that youth should not be overlooked when planning for outdoor play, promotes the need for locally derived standards, supports planning for play within the street environment (e.g., "Homezones") and recommends the general approach outlined in More than Swings and Roundabouts (Children's Play Council).

### **The Revised National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six-Acre Standard (2001)**

The recommendation from the NPFA in 2001 is that local authorities should aim to achieve a minimum standard of outdoor space for children's play of 0.8 hectares (two acres) per 1000 people. In terms of quality standards the NPFA suggest a hierarchy of provision as outlined below:

### **LAP (Local Area of Play)**

Location	one minutes walking time from home.
Target age group	four to six-year-olds.
Purpose	low-key games, French cricket or play with small toys.
Equipment	Equipment should be small-scale and appropriate for younger children; seating and dog fencing.
Area	activity zone (to avoid disturbance to neighbours) at least 5 m from the nearest residential property.

### **LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play)**

Location	five minutes walking time from home.
Target age group	four to eight years. Consideration should also be given to very young children and unaccompanied eight to ten-year-olds.
Purpose	LEAPS should cater for a large range of play activity, including informal ball games.
Equipment	at least five types of play equipment. Should also have seating for accompanying adults and be fenced to exclude dogs.
Area	activity zone approximately 400 sq m. Buffer zone 20 m between the edge of the activity zone and residential property. The buffer zone should include footpaths and planted areas.

### **NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play)**

Location	within 15 minutes walking time from home.
Target age group	Unaccompanied and unsupervised 8 to 14-year-olds.
Purpose	to provide challenging and stimulating play opportunities.
Equipment	a minimum of eight types of play equipment, kickabout area and facilities for skateboarding, bicycles or similar activities. Seating for adults and for teenagers to use as a meeting place. The area should also be fenced to exclude dogs.
Area	activity zone approximately 1000 sq m. Buffer zone at least 30 m from activity zone to nearest residential property.

The recommendation is to achieve 0.8 hectares of outdoor playing space, by:

- Providing LAPS, LEAPS and NEAPS in locations based upon walking time; and,
- Providing the balance as casual play space within areas of amenity open space.

In relation to standards for equipped play areas there has been a significant change in emphasis. Previous NPFA guidance was that the area of equipped play space should be a minimum of 0.2 - 0.3 hectares (of the overall 0.8 hectares of play space). The new guidance however places much more emphasis on accessibility in

terms of walking time and the quality and design specification of the play facilities rather than the amount of space available.

### **Safety standards and legislation.**

European safety standards for playgrounds – EN1176 and EN 1177– have been in place since 1999. The UK adoption of these standards has caused some concern nationally about the safety of existing items of play equipment and safer surfacing.

Playground managers are recommended to purchase new equipment and surfacing that meet the new standards and evidence of compliance or third party testing needs to be sought from a supplier.

The position with old equipment is more complex. Whilst the new standards are not retrospective, and it should be appreciated that equipment that formerly met the old standards will not become unsafe overnight, compliance with the standard may well be considered as part of any accident claim.

The Health and Safety at Work Act is the major legislation covering play areas. There is a duty of care to ensure the health and safety of users, and providers could be found negligent if they failed to take reasonable care to ensure their play areas are safe (and avoid accidents they could reasonably have foreseen might happen).

### **Transport strategies**

Government planning guidance promotes traffic calming, home zones and measures to improve walking and cycling, all of which can improve children and young people's access to play opportunities. These measures also directly create opportunities to play, since for children the act of getting from one place to another is often part of their play, whether or not it is a purposeful trip.

Transport policies can, however, work against children's freedom of movement and limit their play opportunities if traffic speeds and volumes are too high in neighbourhoods. The Department for Transport is currently drafting new guidance on the design of residential streets, which is likely to take a more balanced approach to accommodating all users of the street.



# Sedgemoor Play Strategy – Consultation Paper

***The Sedgemoor Play Partnership endorsed this paper on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and therefore agreed that the Sedgemoor Play Strategy should be developed so as to address and prioritise the ‘Key Issues’.detailed in Section 4.***

## **Contents**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Questionnaire and Survey findings**
- 3. Focus Group and Surgery Findings**
- 4. Key Issues emerging from Consultation**
- 5. Appendices (separate document)**

## **Note**

**In preparing an *inclusive Play Strategy* for Sedgemoor it is important to understand issues that are important, for example, for children and young people with disabilities and from black and other ethnic minorities. These issues were dealt with specifically through particular face-to-face meetings with either young people or those who work closely with them. Queries on inclusive issues were also made during interviews with a wide range of those consulted and through questions in the survey.**

## 1. Introduction

This section details the various methods through which information has been gathered to establish the needs and aspirations of children, young people (CYP), parents/carers and the wider community in relation to play provision for CYP in Sedgemoor. Consultation and engagement has been achieved through:

### Questionnaire and surveys

- Questionnaires to children and young people
- Surveys of parents/carers
- Survey of Parish and Town Councils
- Survey of members of Sedgemoor Play Partnership

### Focus Groups and direct contact

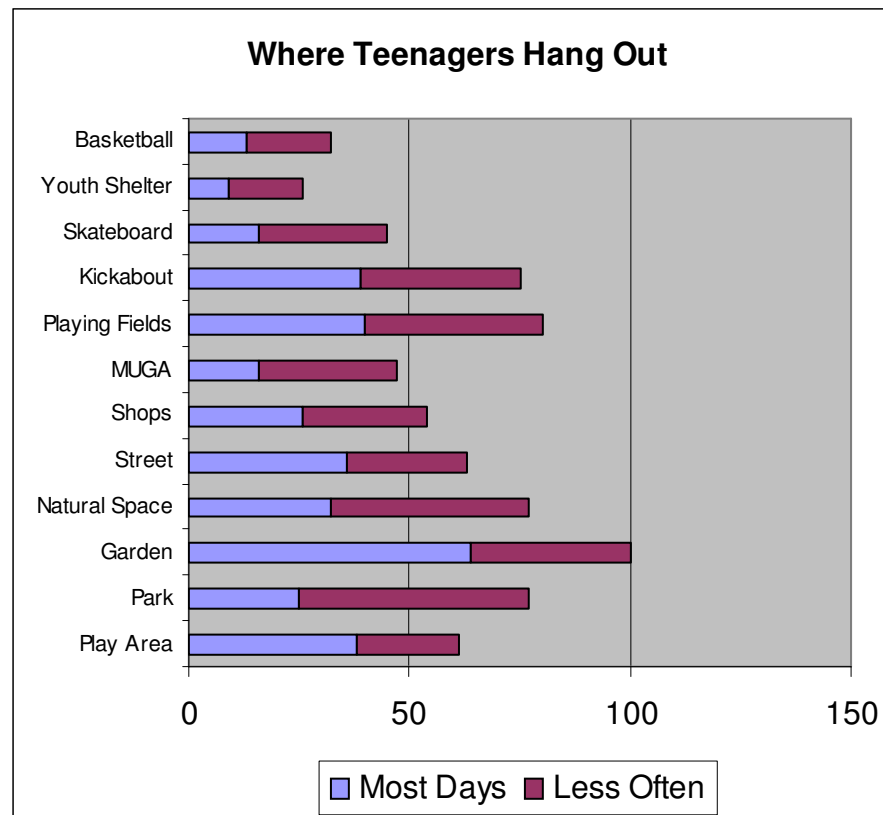
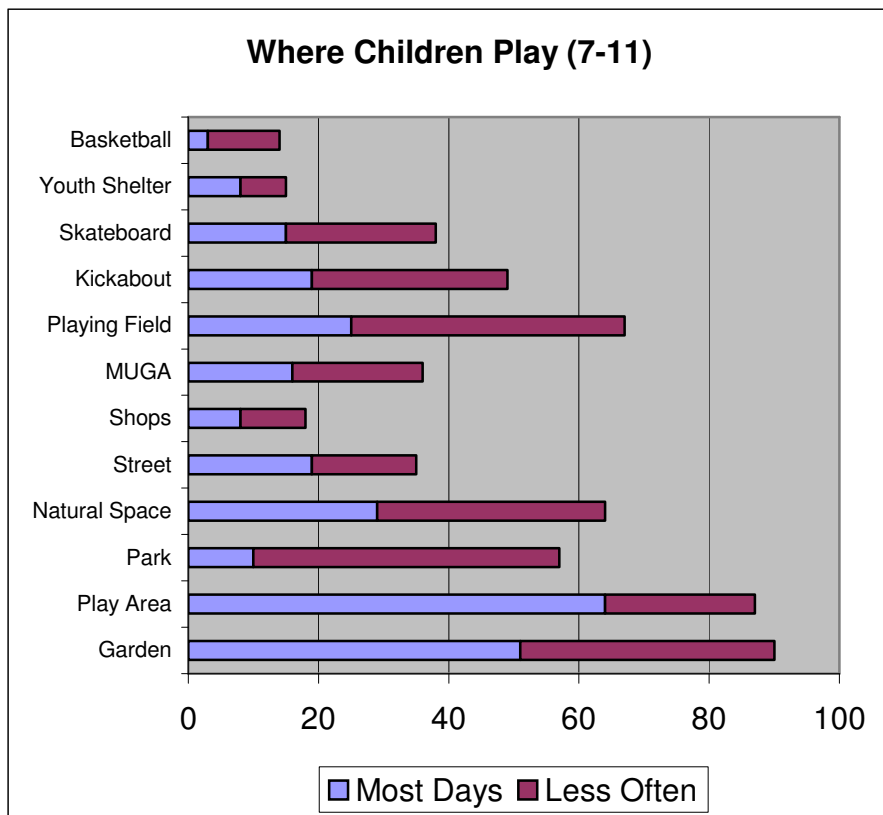
- Young people at a drop-in session at the ReCreation centre
- Police Community Support Officer Surgery
- Hamp Community Association Focus Group
- Bridgwater College Forest School Surgery
- Access to Play for Black and Minority Ethnic Young People Focus Group
- Access to Play for Black and Minority Ethnic Young People Focus Group
- ReCreation Centre Surgery
- Early Years Childcare Service Surgery
- Somerset Learning Alliance Surgery
- Wildlife Trust Surgery
- SDC - Community Safety Officer, Park and Open Spaces Surgeries
- Bridgwater Arts Centre Surgery
- Barnardo's / Somerset Play Forum / Children's Fund Surgery
- Bay Centre Young People Focus Group
- Youth and Community Workers Focus Group (based in Burnham area)
- Parish and Town Council Workshop
- Play Partnership
- Shadow Play Partnership

The report outlines the findings of these various consultation exercises and pulls together what have emerged as the key issues in relation to the development of the Sedgemoor Play Strategy.

## 2. Questionnaire and Survey Findings

Questionnaire surveys of CYP were undertaken through primary and secondary schools across the District.<sup>1</sup> The surveys provided responses from 119 children aged 7-11 and 146 young people (teenagers) aged 12-18<sup>2</sup>. The main findings are outlined below<sup>3</sup>:

### Where do CYP play and hang out?



- This suggests that for both younger children and teenagers the garden is their most common space for play, although the younger age group use play areas very often too<sup>4</sup>

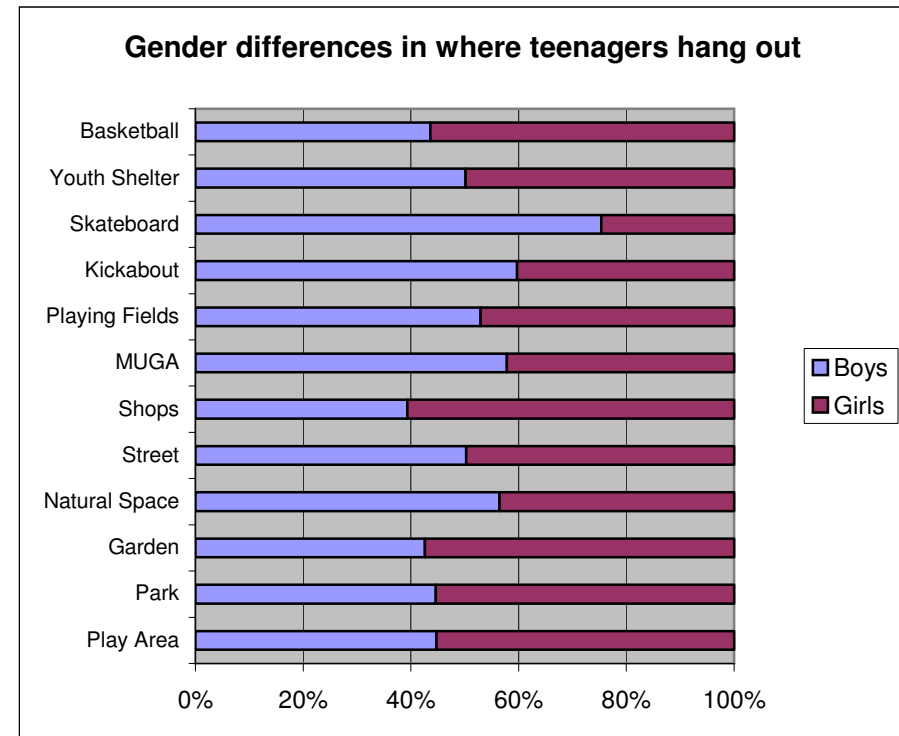
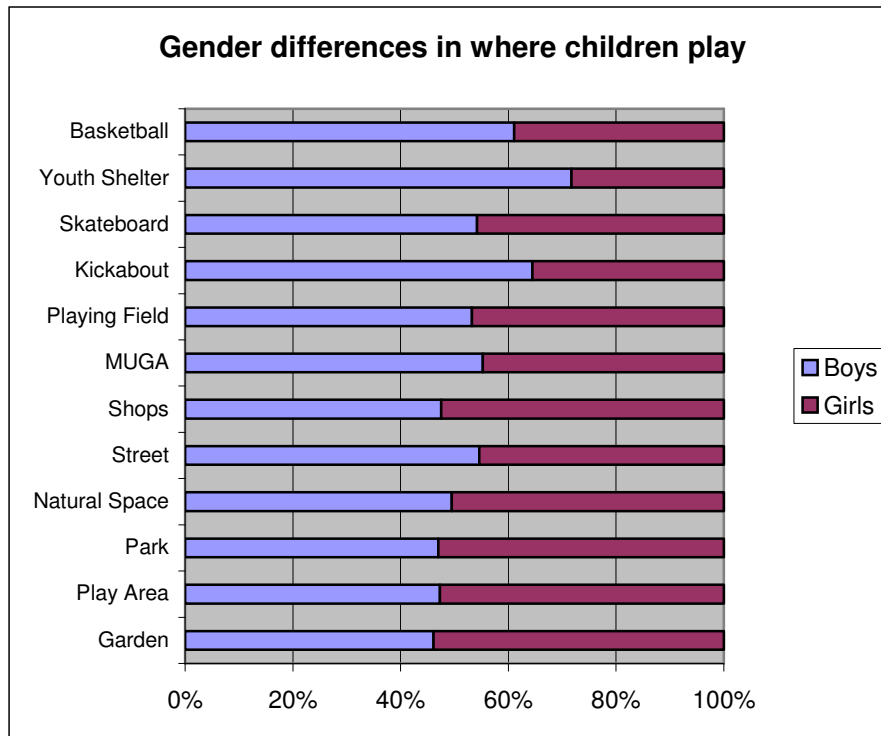
<sup>1</sup> Copy of which schools were sent surveys and who returned can be found in Appendix 7

<sup>2</sup> The slight bias towards teenagers is referred to where necessary

<sup>3</sup> Where chart says 'skatepark', actual survey question referred to 'wheeled sports'

- Natural spaces and playing fields are next most popular for younger group
- Kickabouts and playing fields are common venues for teenagers
- The fact that the street is used by both age groups is significant, but usage of the street is relatively low compared to other areas similar surveys have been carried out

The gender differences in where CYP were analysed too and showed a bias towards basketball, Youth Shelters and kickabouts in the younger age group. For teenagers boys were the clear majority for skateboarding and kickabouts, girls for shops<sup>5</sup>.



*These findings tell us that as well as public green spaces the strategy should also consider issues about making residential streets more child friendly. It also tells us that CYP without gardens do not have access to the most commonly used playspace by their peers and this should be considered when planning new developments.*

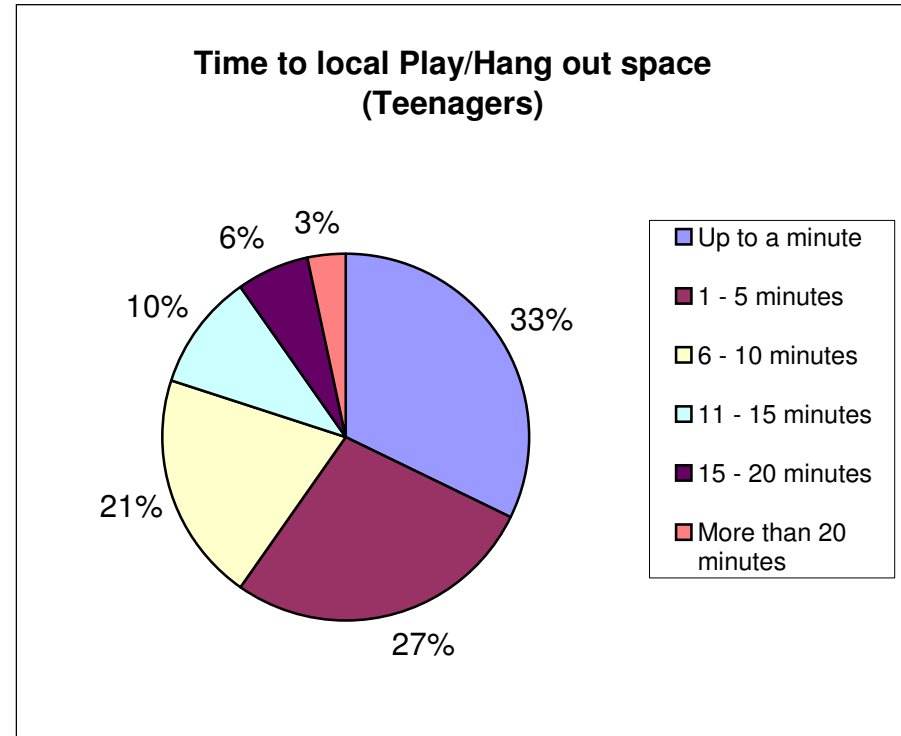
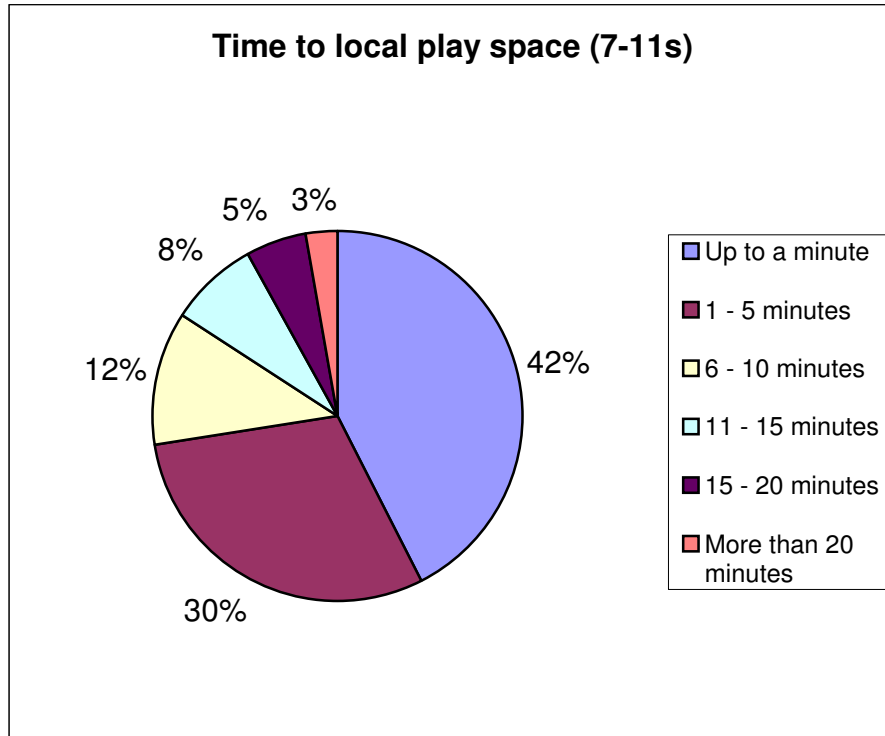
<sup>4</sup> Please note that the limited size of the sample should be taken in to consideration when considering the observations made

<sup>5</sup> A list of the responses to the question 'name the playground park or other space that you play in the most' can be found in Appendix 3.

### Access to most used local play/hang out space

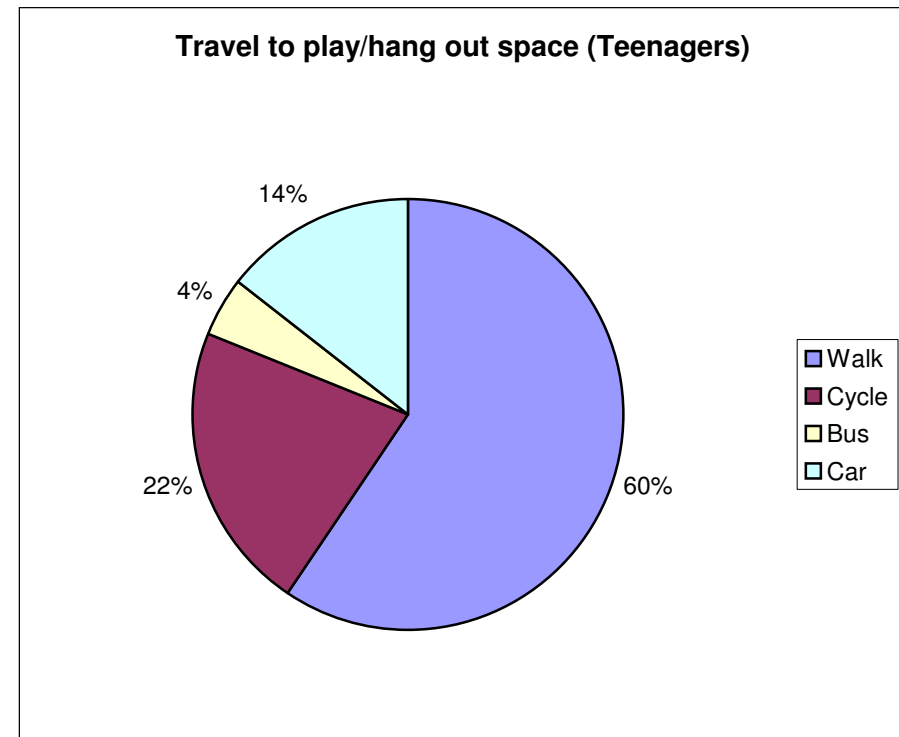
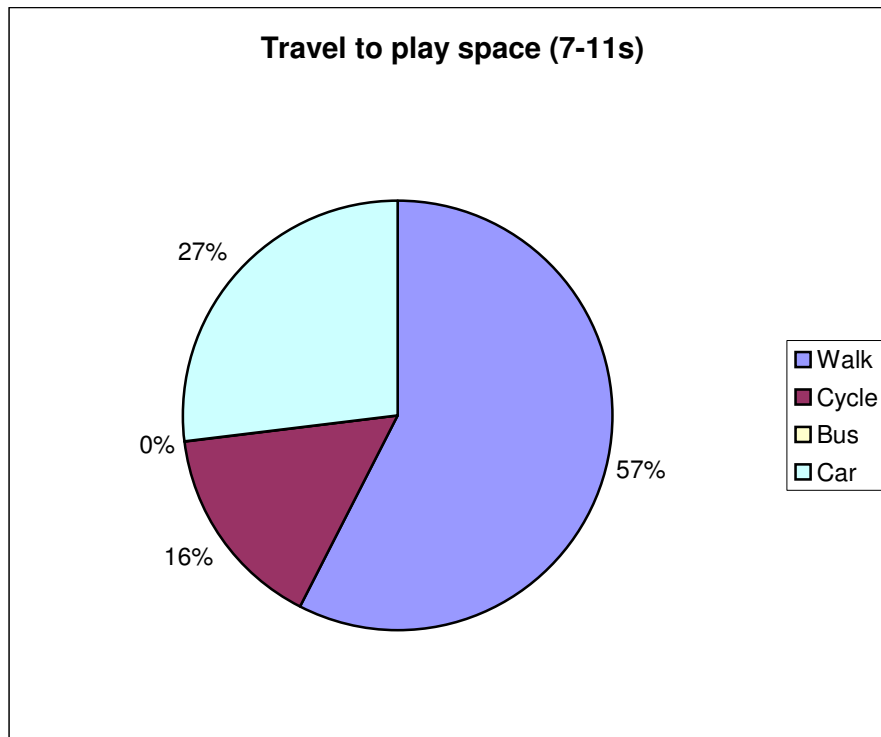
CYP need to have reasonable access to areas where they can meet and play/hang out within reach of their homes. A number of questions were therefore asked regarding access to their most used public play/hang out space (this excludes their own garden).

### How long does it take to reach the most used play/hang out space?



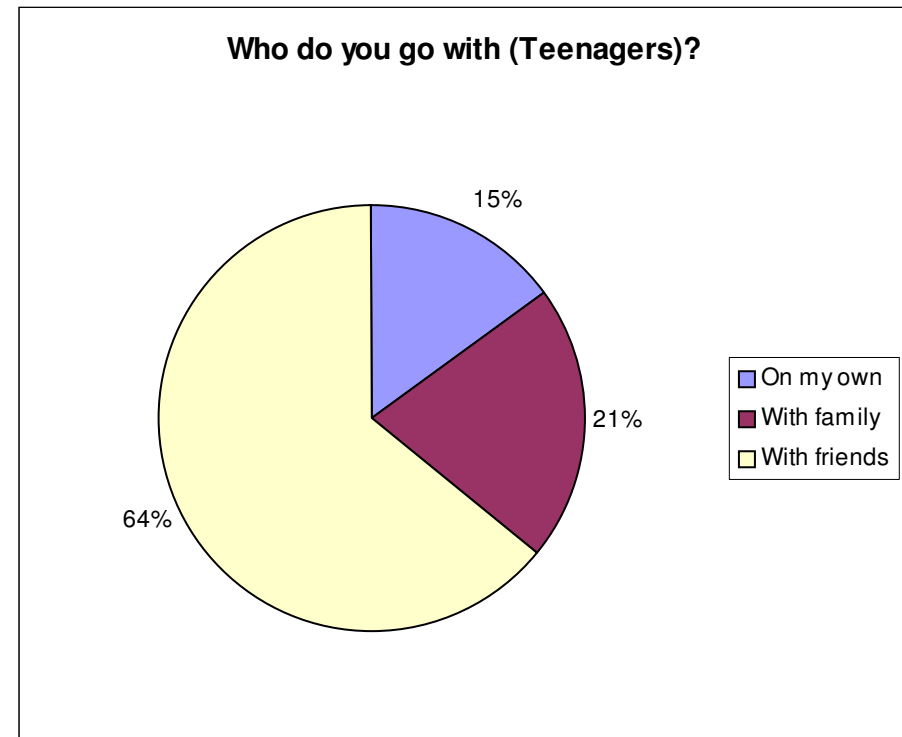
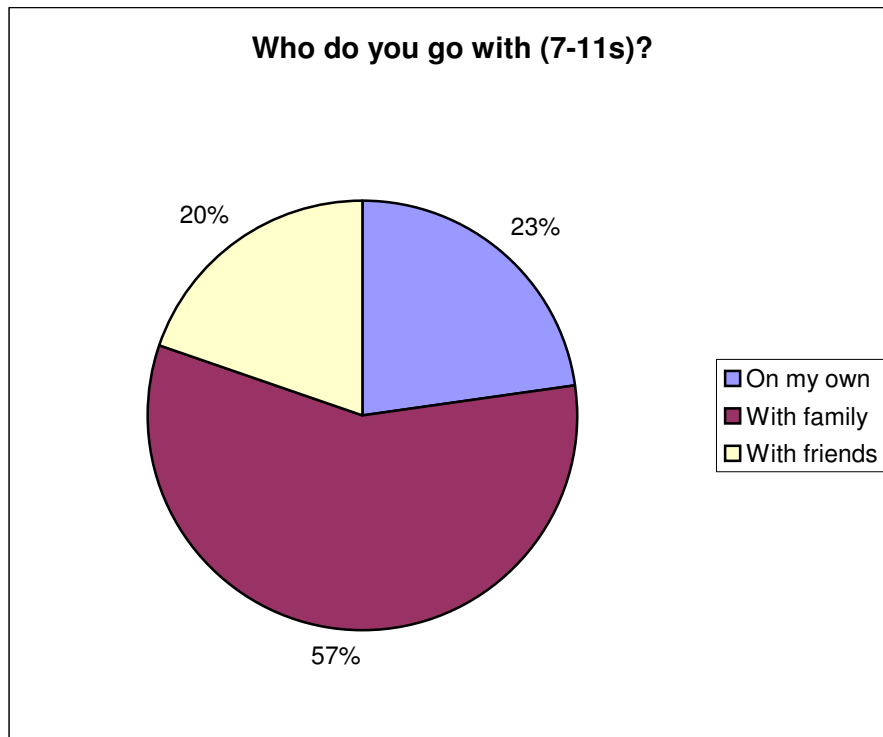
- 72% of children and 60% of teenagers say they travel less than 5 mins to their most used play space
- 84% of children and 81% of teenagers say they travel less than 10 mins to their most used play space
- 8% of children and 9% of teenagers travel more than 15 mins to their most used space

## Mode of Travel



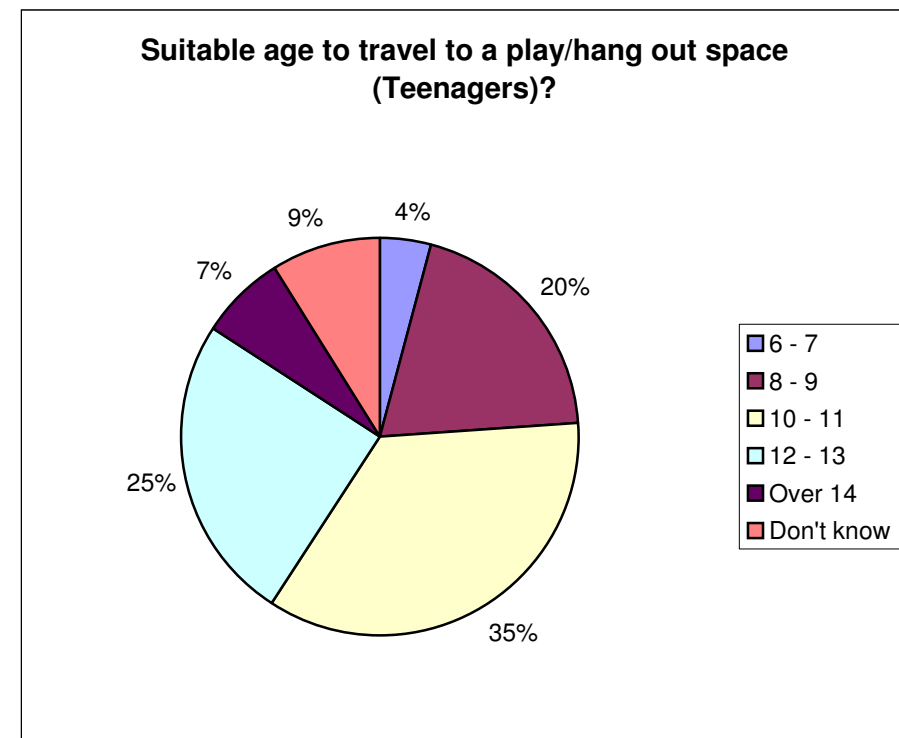
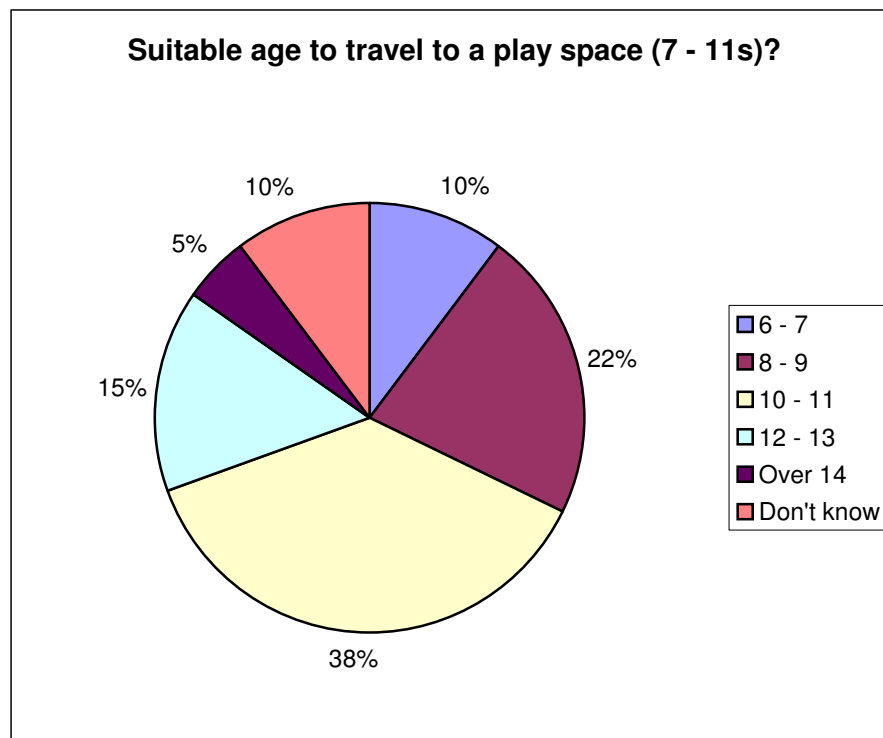
- 73% of children and 82% of teenagers walk or cycle to their local play space
- 27% of children and 14% of teenagers travel accompanied by car (this is notably higher than other less rural areas)

**Who do CYP go with to reach play/hang out space?**



- Younger children are much more likely to visit playspaces with their family
- Teenagers are more likely to visit hang out spaces with friends

### At what age should you be allowed to travel to a play area etc alone?

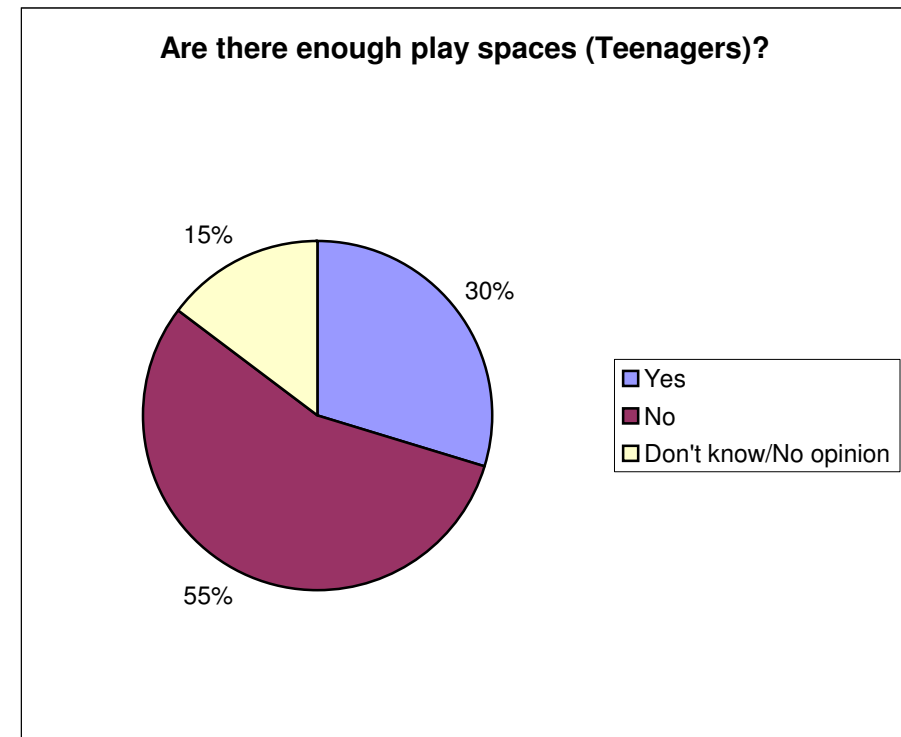
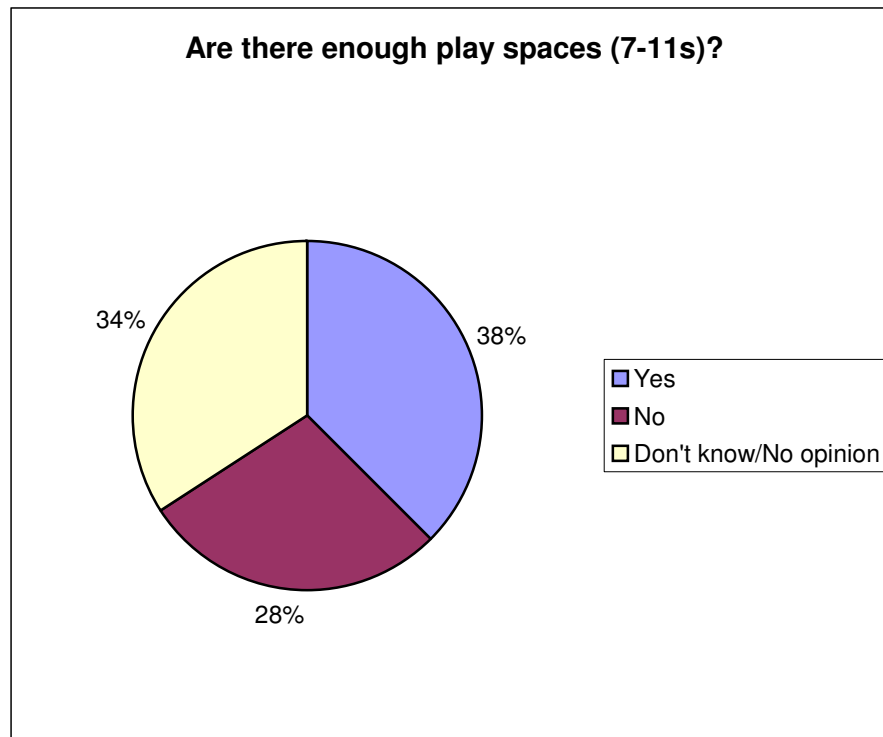


- 70% of children thought that it was reasonable for 7-11s to visit play spaces without an adult
- 59% of teenagers thought that it was reasonable for under 11s to visit play spaces without an adult

*These findings suggest that children need to have access to local play areas within 5mins and teenagers 5-10mins walking distance from home. Measures to make walking and cycling safe for unaccompanied young people in residential areas need to be a priority.*

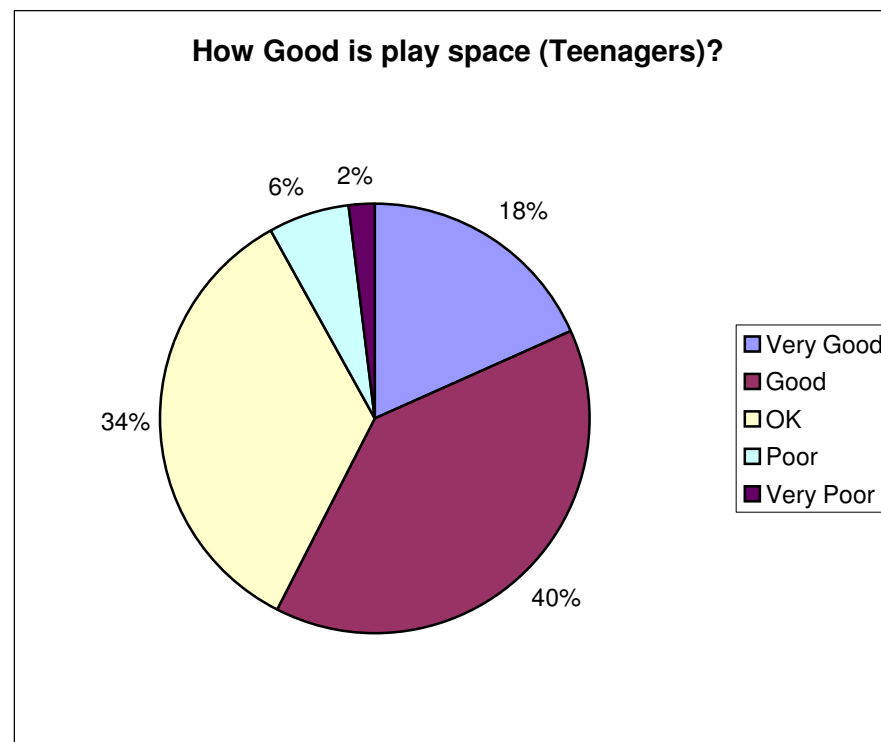
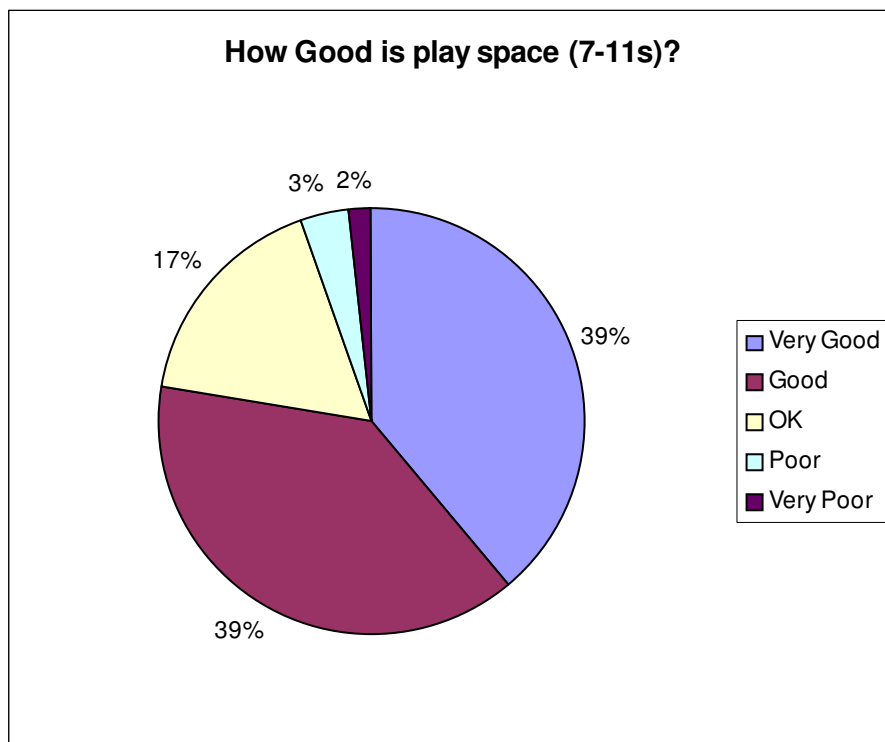


## Quantity and quality of local play/hang out spaces



- 28% of younger children and 55% of teenagers thought there were **not** enough play spaces in their area
- 38% of younger children and 30% of teenagers thought there were enough play spaces

## Quality of most used space



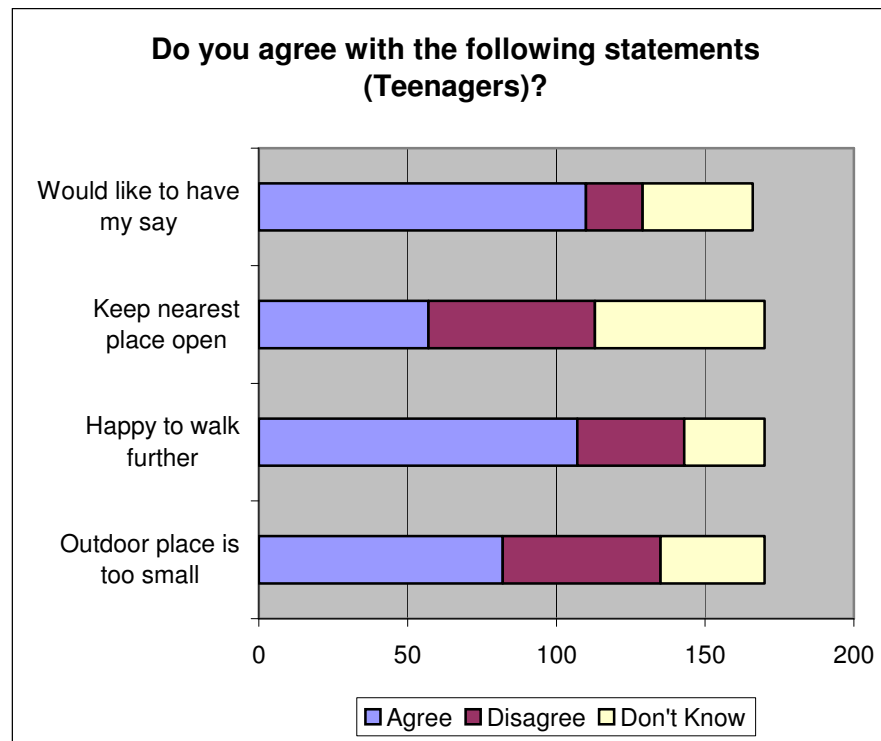
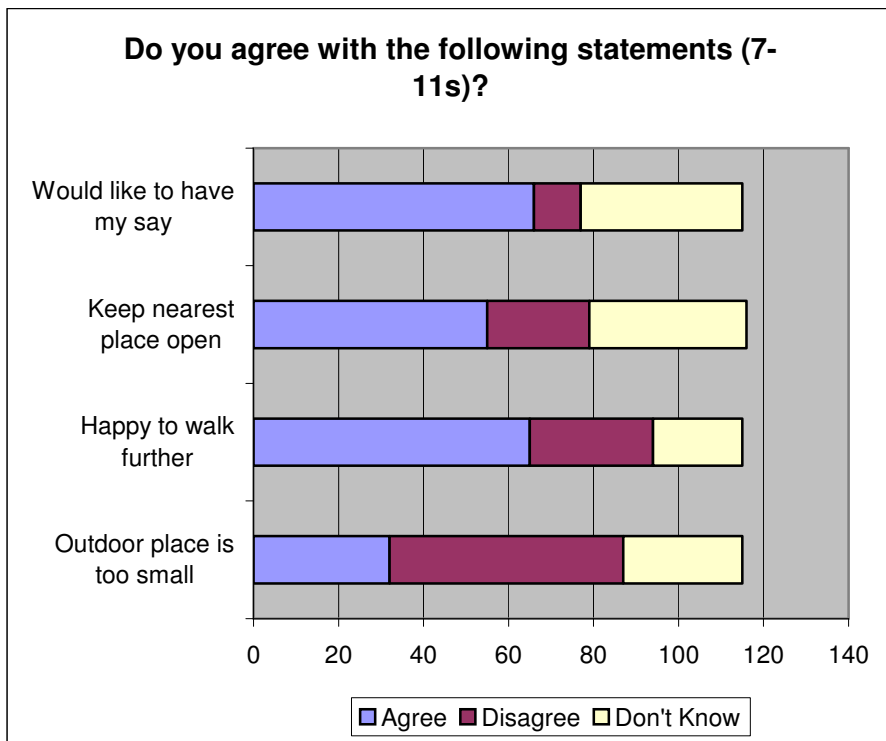
- 78% of younger children and 58% of teenagers thought their local play space was good or very good
- 5% of younger children and 8% of teenagers thought their local play area was poor or very poor

While this might suggest that most CYP are reasonably happy with their local playing out space it should also be noted that they may have fairly low expectations as to what is 'adequate' and little experience of better quality provision. Teenagers clearly more likely to have an opinion.

### Access to higher quality provision, but fewer equipped sites?

A number of statements were put forward to test whether there was any consensus over whether CYP might prefer a smaller number of higher quality sites. The findings were not very conclusive, but it was clear that:

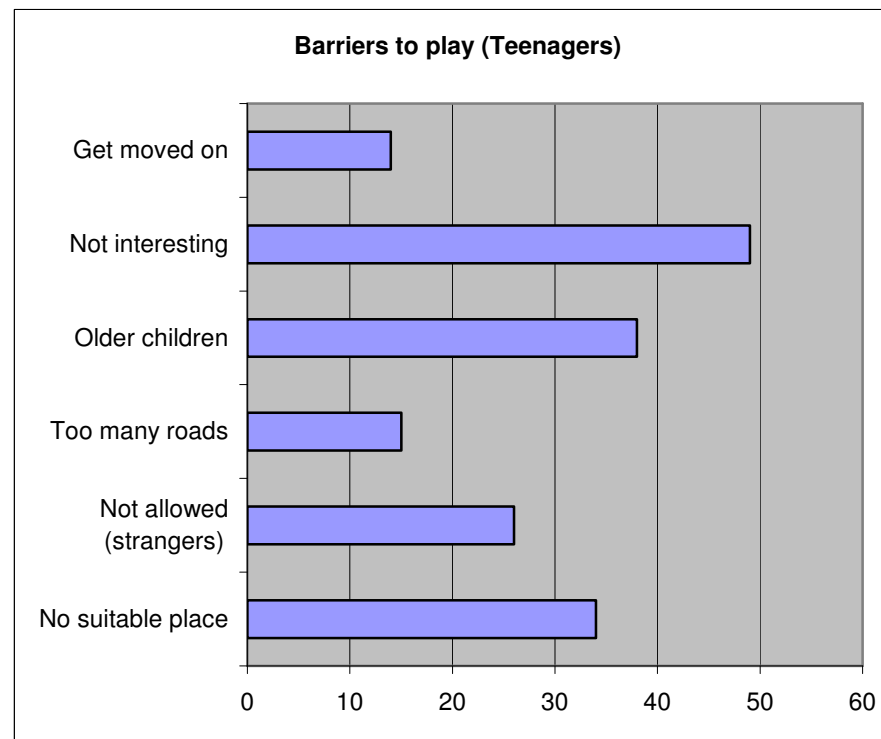
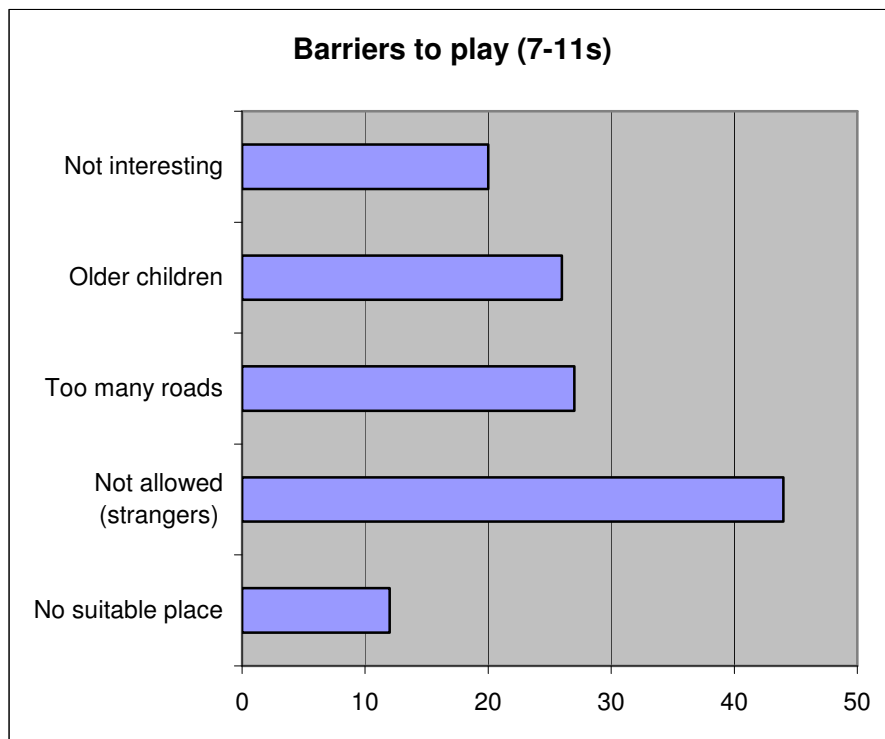
- CYP of all ages are keen to have their say in how new play areas are built or existing sites can be improved
- Younger children are keen for their nearest space to stay open, even if a bigger, better site was available further away
- Teenagers in particular were willing to walk a bit further if it was to a more interesting and bigger site



*Teenagers think that there are **not** enough spaces to play and hang out and are generally less satisfied with the quality of existing playspaces and would be more willing to walk further for something more suitable. Younger children are reasonably happy with the quantity and quality of their local playspaces and value provision being close by above other factors. Most CYP want to have their say on improving existing and building new playspaces.*

## Barriers to the use of play/hang out space

CYP were asked what the main reasons were for not using local public spaces for play more.

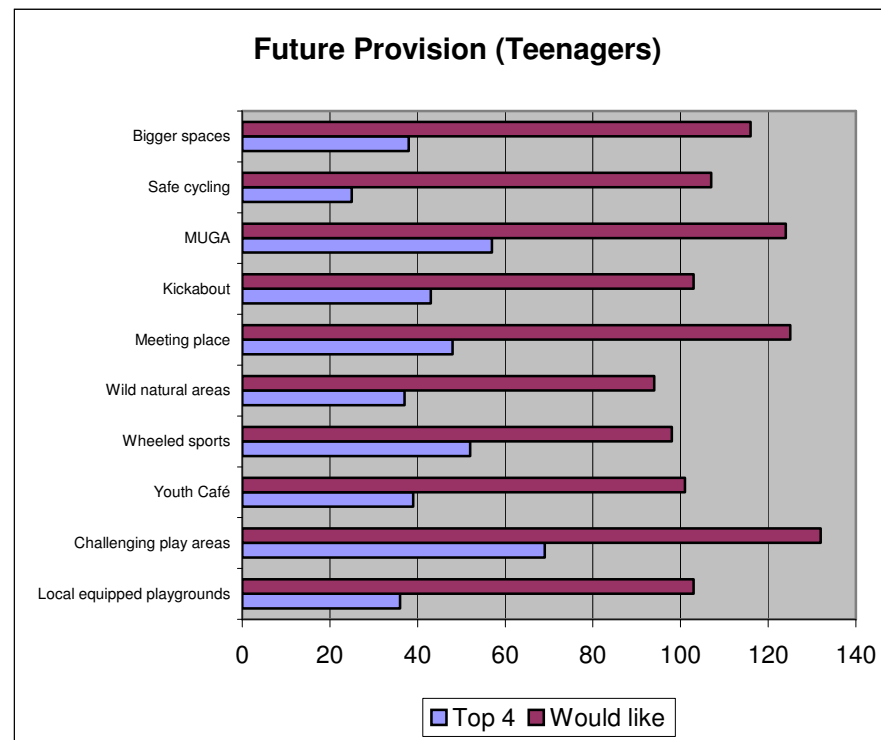
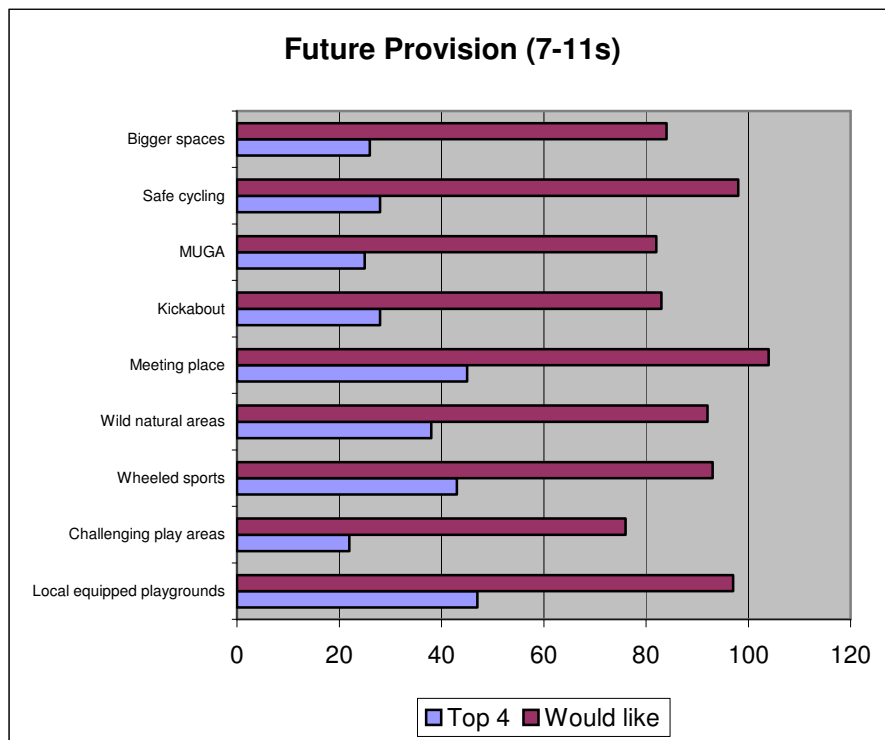


- 'Not interesting enough' was main reason for teenagers
- 'Not allowed to go on my own' is main reason for children
- Dominance by older children is an issue for both age groups
- 'Too many roads to cross – traffic danger' is more of a barrier for the younger age group
- Teens feel there is 'no suitable place' for them to go

*Because CYP of all ages are not allowed to use play spaces because of fears of stranger danger and bullying, security issues will be important in terms of future planning. Teenagers in particular need more interesting, suitable provision and if it is provided, this might mean younger children's provision would be less monopolised by older groups. Measures to reduce the danger presented by motor vehicle traffic in residential areas would enable more younger children to access local playspaces*

## Preferences for future provision

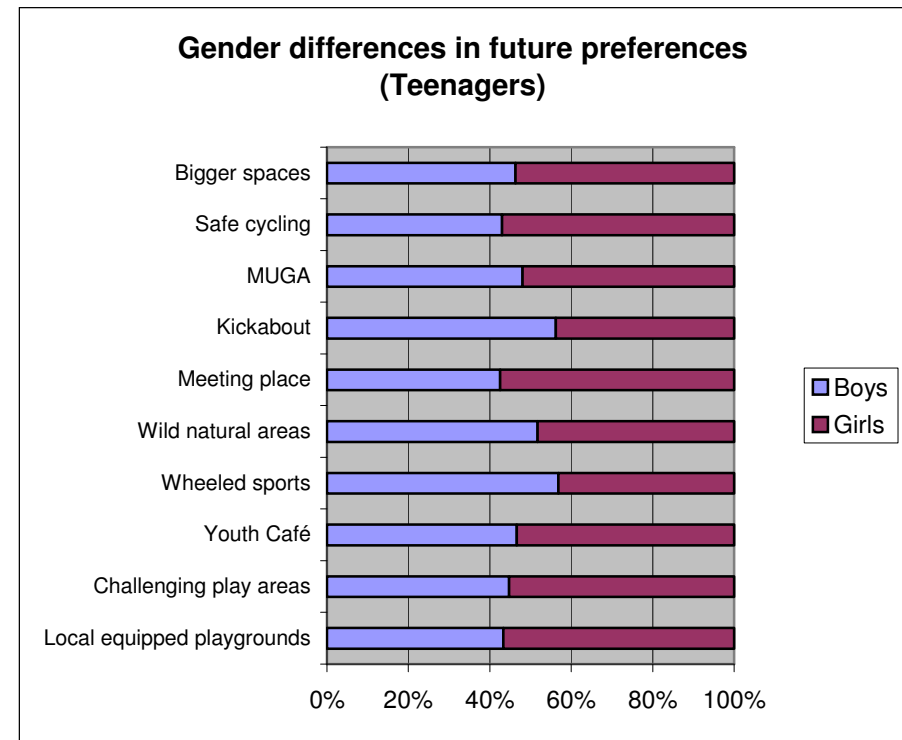
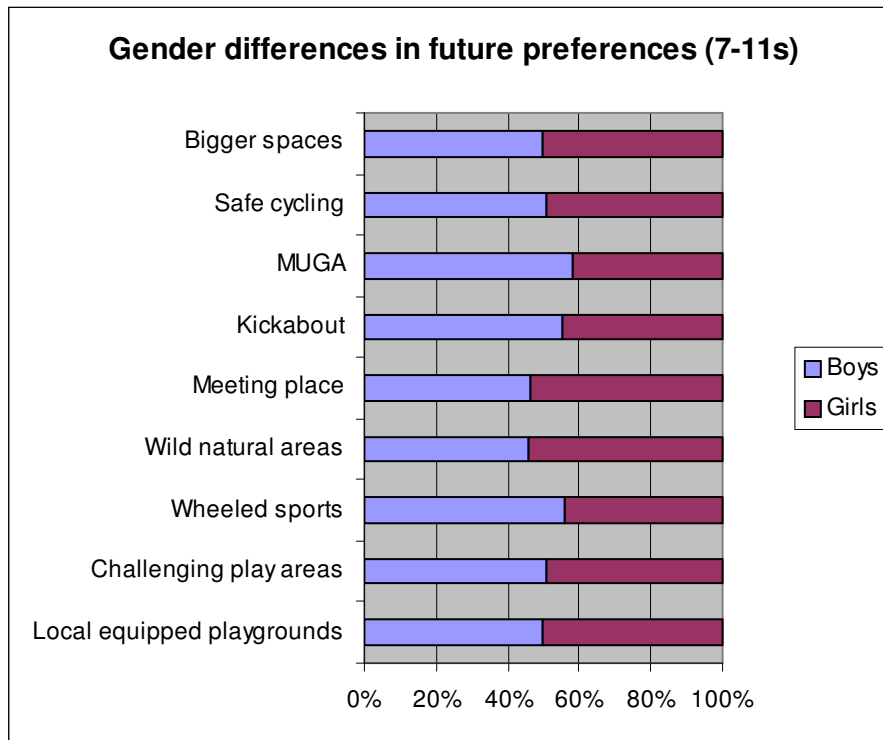
CYP were asked what sort of free facilities or play equipment they would like to have in future spaces for play and what their priorities were. The results demonstrated reasonable support for almost all of the options.



- This indicates that younger children would most like meeting places, wild natural play areas, wheeled sports and local equipped play areas
- Challenging play areas, MUGAs, wheeled sports and meeting places were the highest priorities for teenagers
- Safe cycling is an important issue for the younger and older age groups

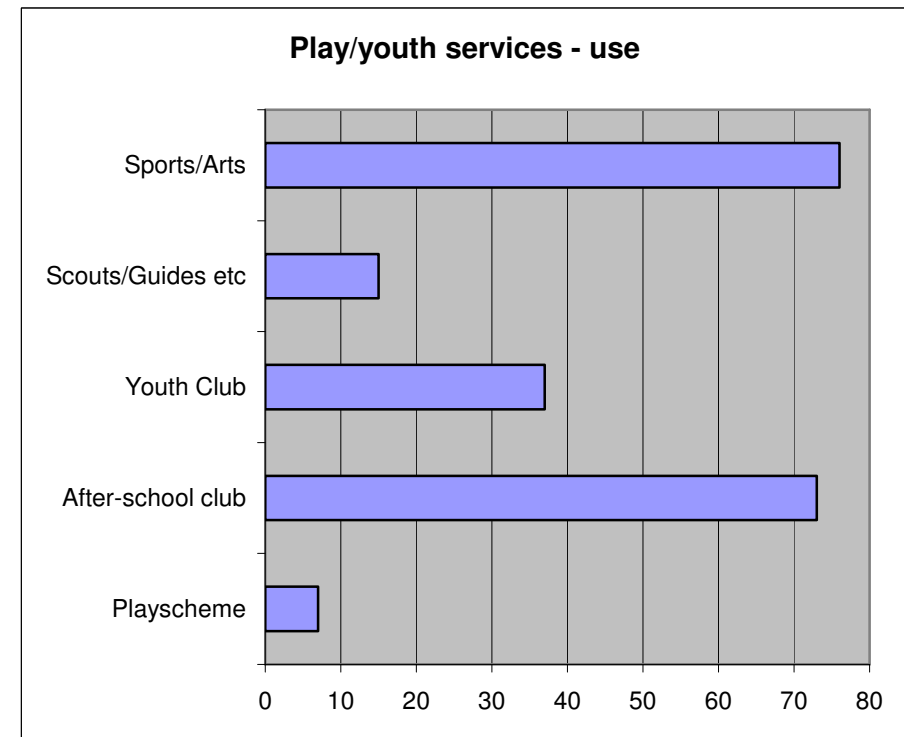
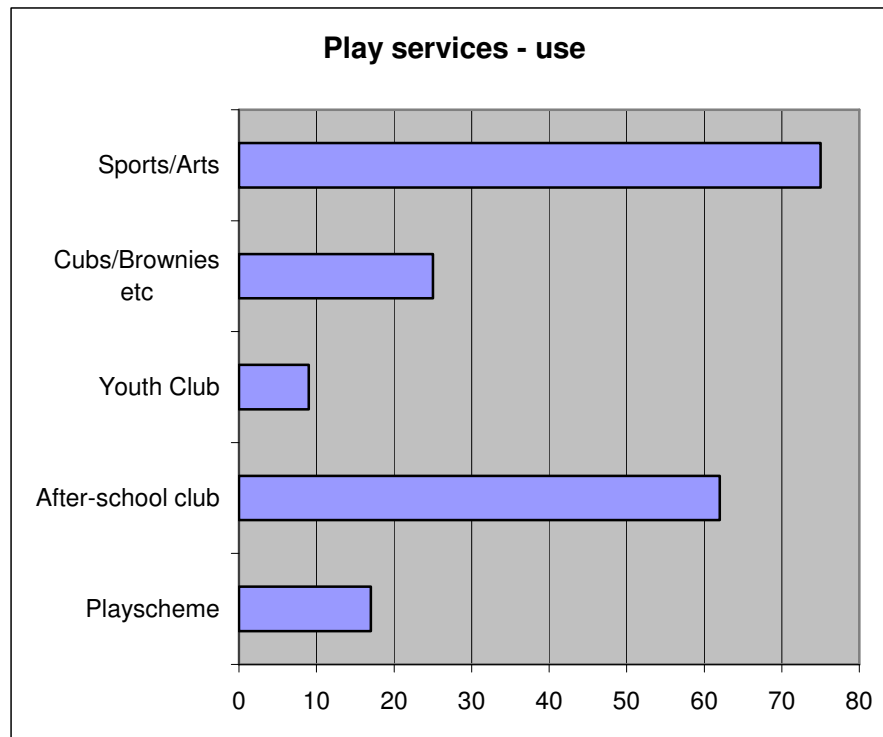
A list of all the 'other suggestions' can be found in Appendix 4.

**Gender differences in preferences for future provision**



*Both age groups and genders want places they can meet up with friends, especially teenagers who also want more challenging play areas. Wheeled sports are a priority for all, but with a bias towards males. More opportunities for wild play have wide appeal, as do safe cycle paths that have places to play and hang out.*

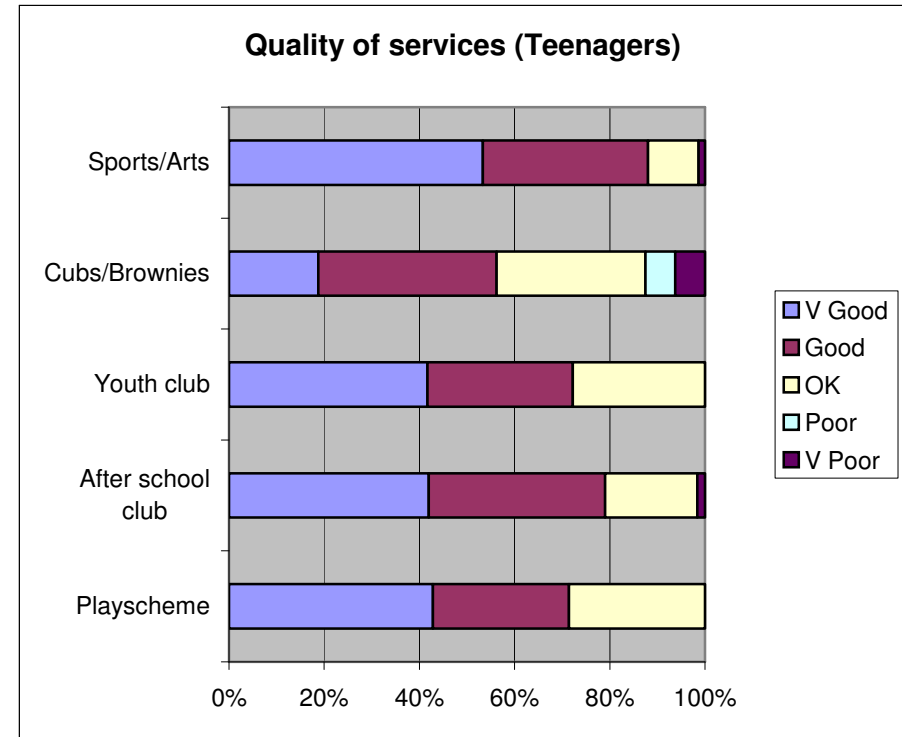
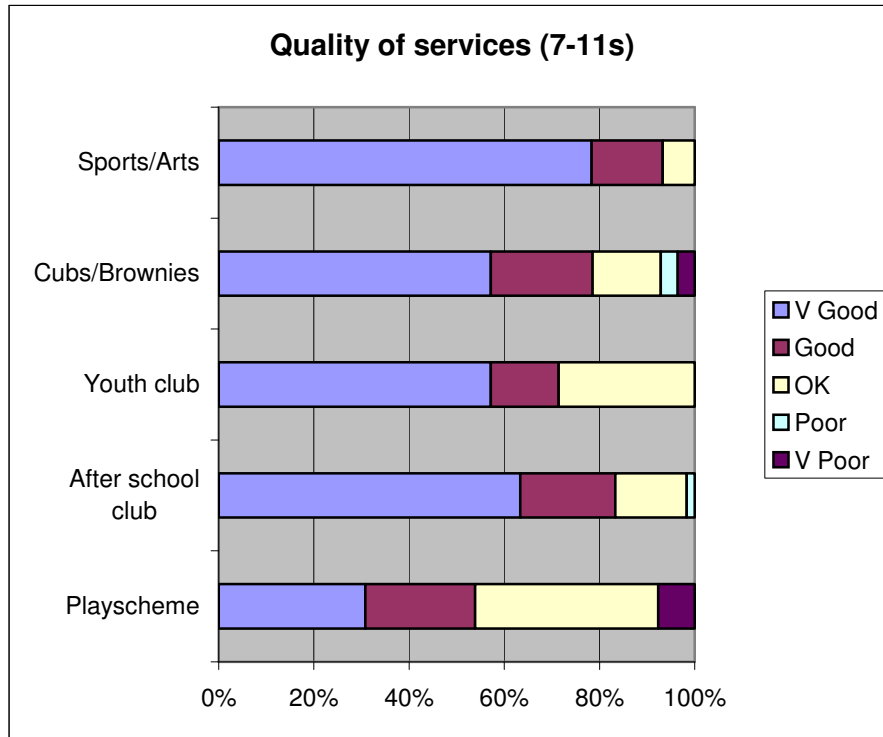
## Youth Clubs, Play Centres, After-school Clubs and activities



- The majority of CYP participate in some form of supervised play opportunity provided by public and voluntary sector organisations
- Most used provision for both age groups are sports/arts activities and after-school clubs
- Playschemes are not used much by either group
- Cubs/brownies participation is low compared to similar areas where these kind of survey questions have been asked

## Quality of services

CYP who attended various services were asked how good they thought they were.

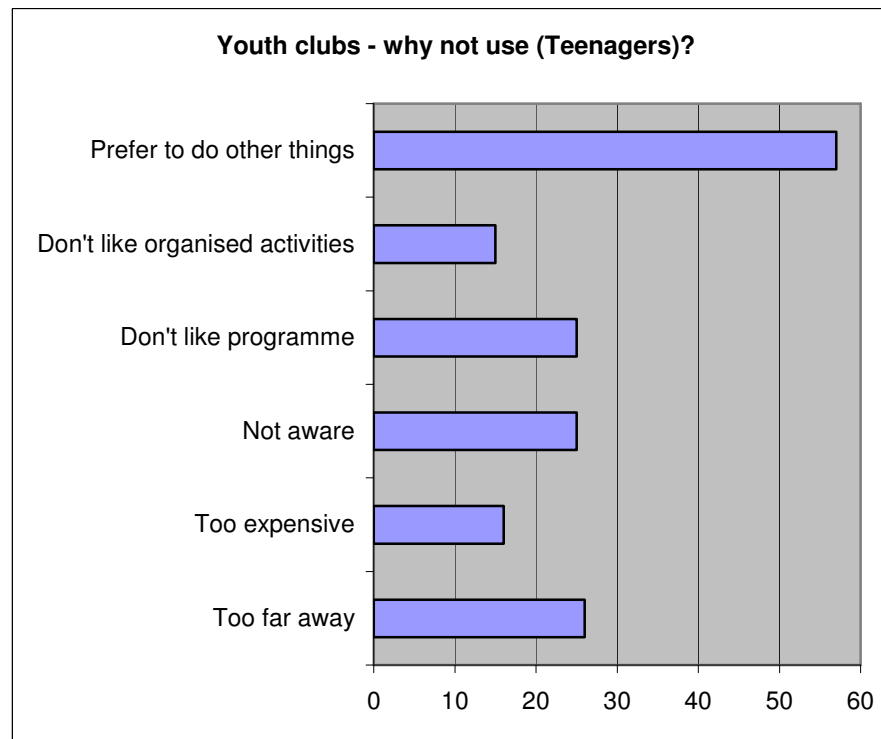
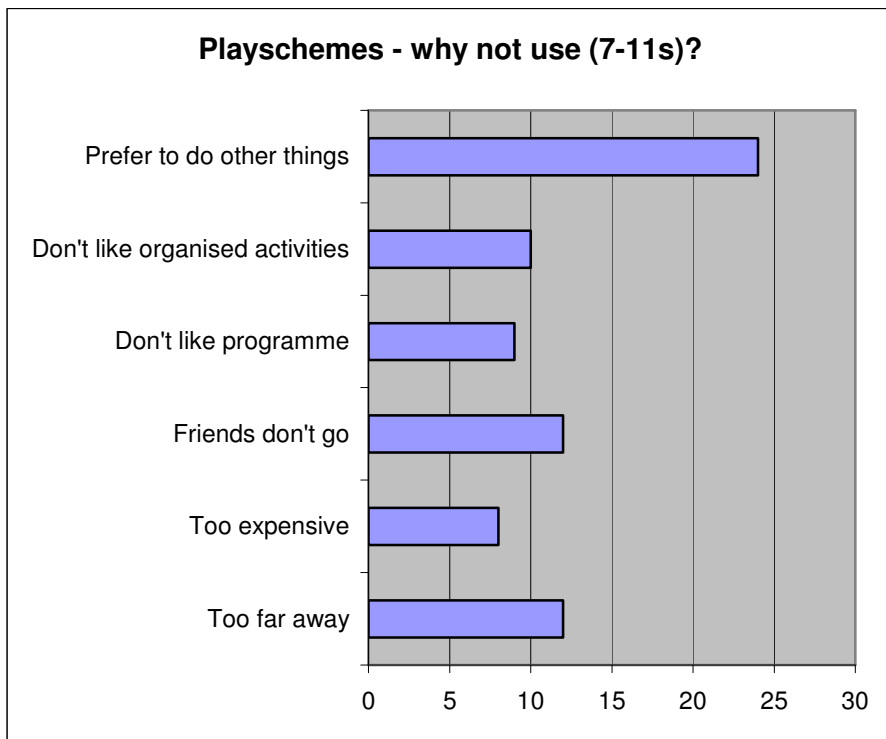


- Sports and arts activities are thought to be good or very good by all age groups
- Both age group think that youth clubs and after-school clubs are generally good too



### Barriers to attendance at supervised play services

CYP were asked why they don't attend a local playscheme or youth club etc.

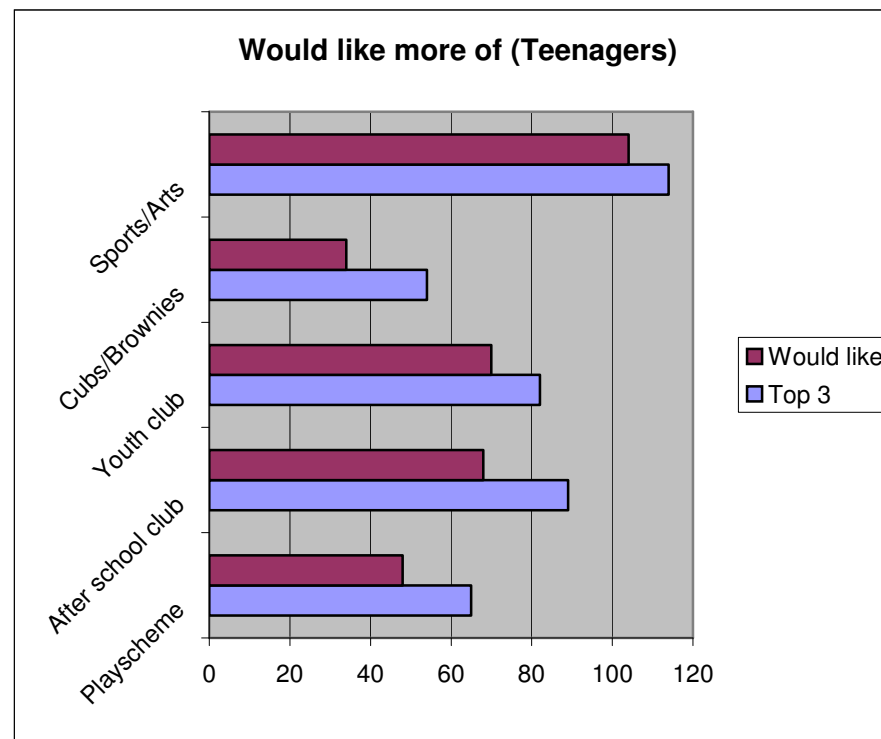
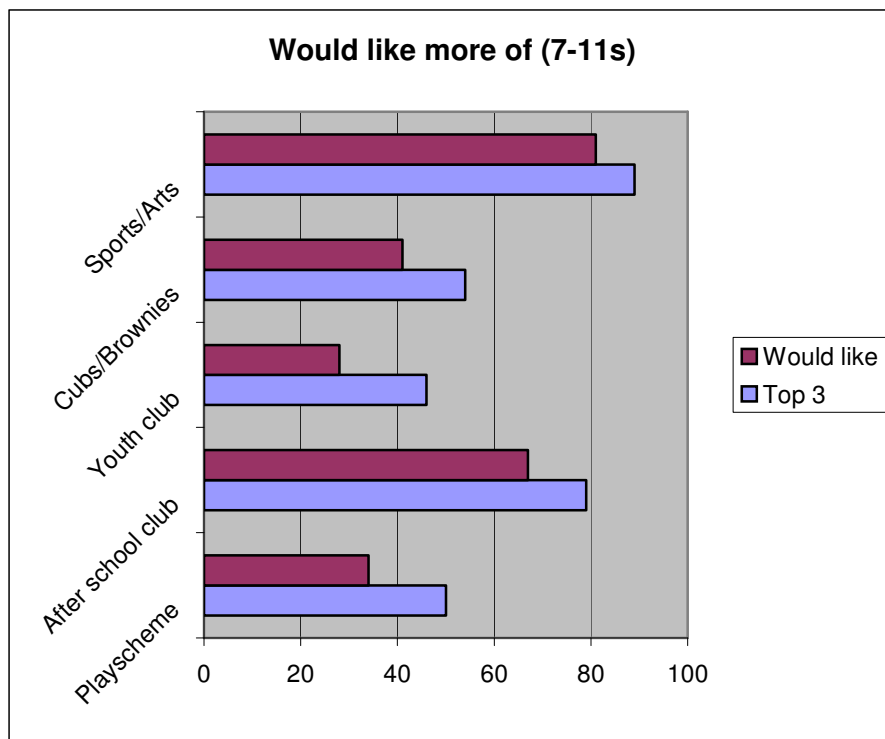


- The main reason for non-attendance is that CYP 'prefer to do other things' with their time
- 'Too far away' is an issue for all ages

Other reasons are shown in Appendix 5.

*The majority of CYP of all ages appear to attend supervised play. After-school clubs and sport and arts activities are most popular among both age groups. CYP are generally happy with the activities they attend. The main reason for non-attendance is that CYP prefer to do other things, although the activities being too far away is a problem for some – this is often a big issue in rural areas.*

## What services would CYP like to see improved or more of?



- Younger children's and teenagers' priorities for future services are for more sports/arts and after school clubs, but all options drew support
- Teenagers are keen on more youth clubs

## General comments by CYP

CYP were given the opportunity to make further comments about the places they play. The full list is shown in Appendix 6.

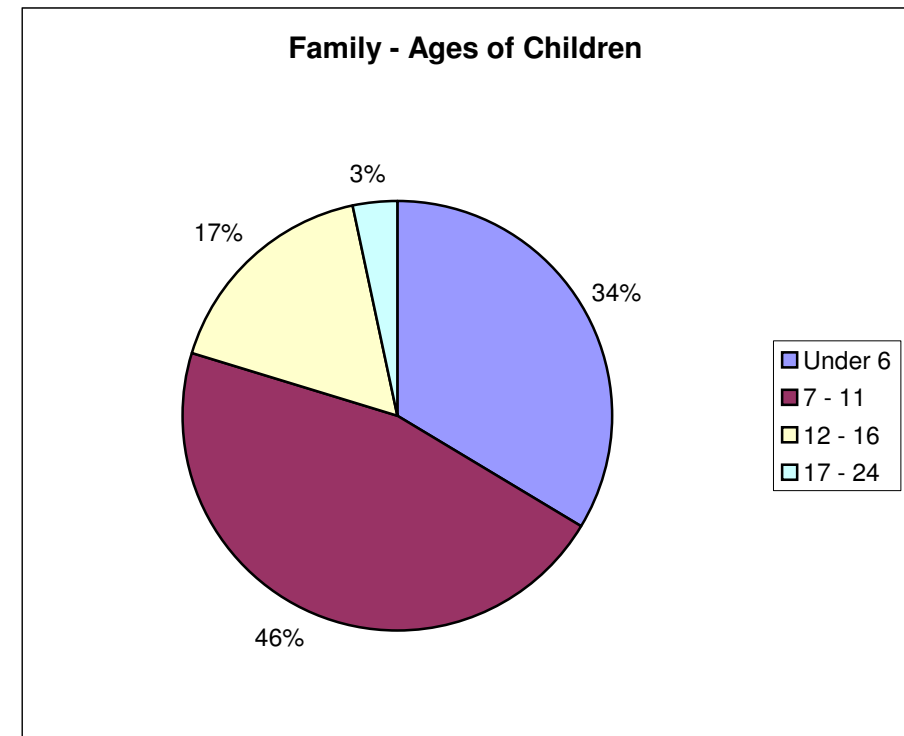
*Teenagers want more provision dedicated to them, both supervised services and outdoor spaces. Younger children are also keen on more services, as well as wanting to be able to go to parks without fear of intimidation.*

## Parents/carers survey

Around 1,100 surveys were distributed to a wide range of organisations and individuals across the District who were liased with through the Play Partnership and SDC. 143 responses were received, of which males filled in 16 of these. This relatively low return rate suggests that not all 1,100 actually reached parents.

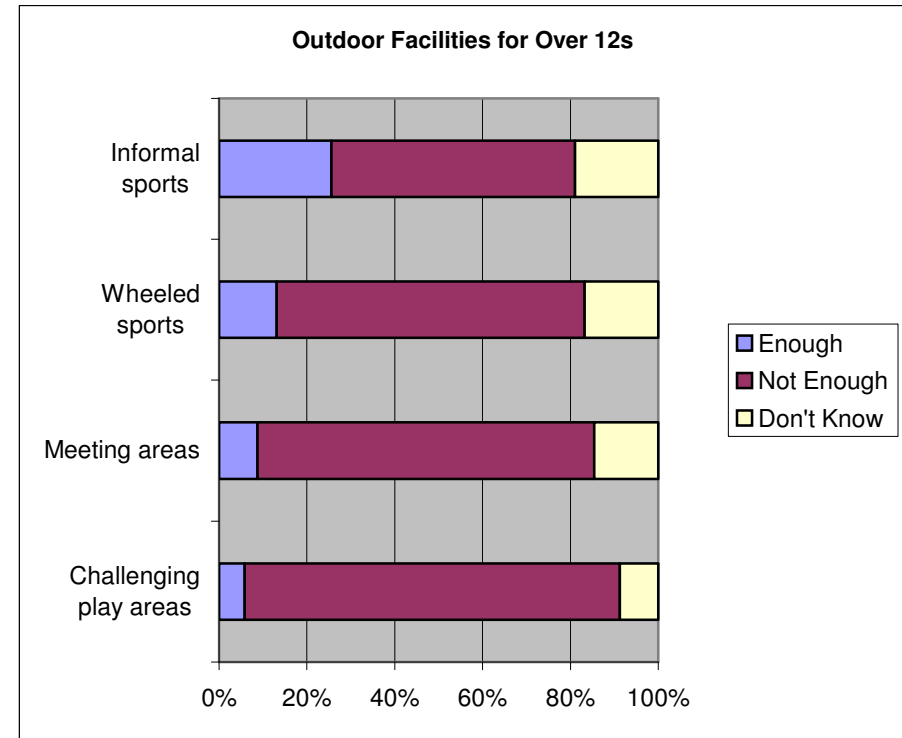
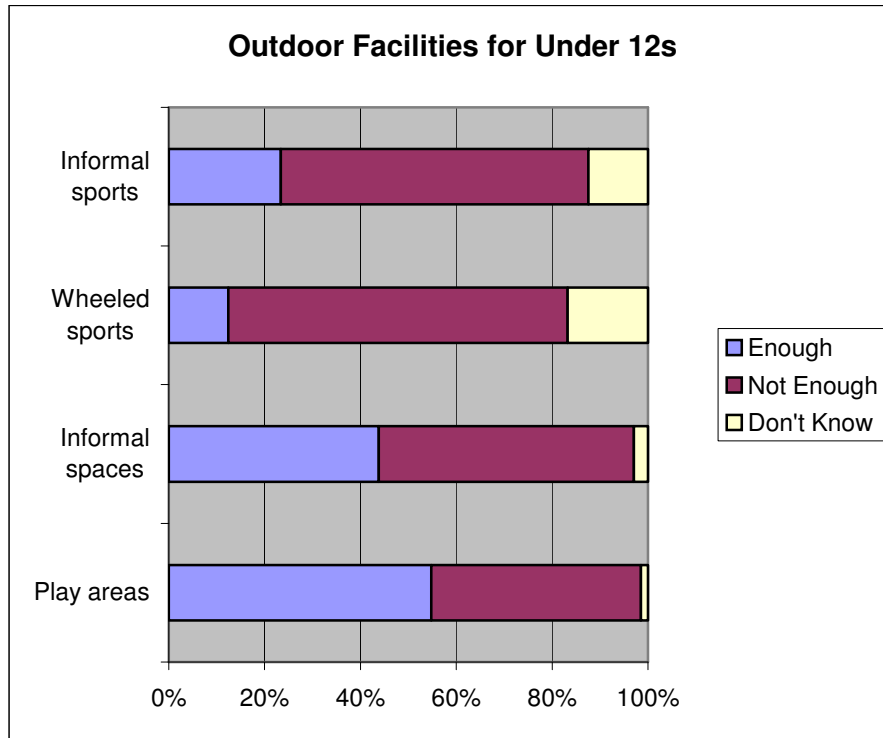
- Around 1/3 of the children of parents in the survey were under 6
- Just under half were 7-11
- Around 1/5<sup>th</sup> were over 12
  
- The most common number of children per family was 2
- 1 family had 6 children and 5 had 5

A bigger sample would have been preferable, especially for over 12s, but where any results that were 'odd' in any way are highlighted and reflected upon in relation to similar surveys carried out in other similar areas.



## Quantity of play and youth facilities

Parents were asked whether they thought there were enough outdoor facilities for CYP.

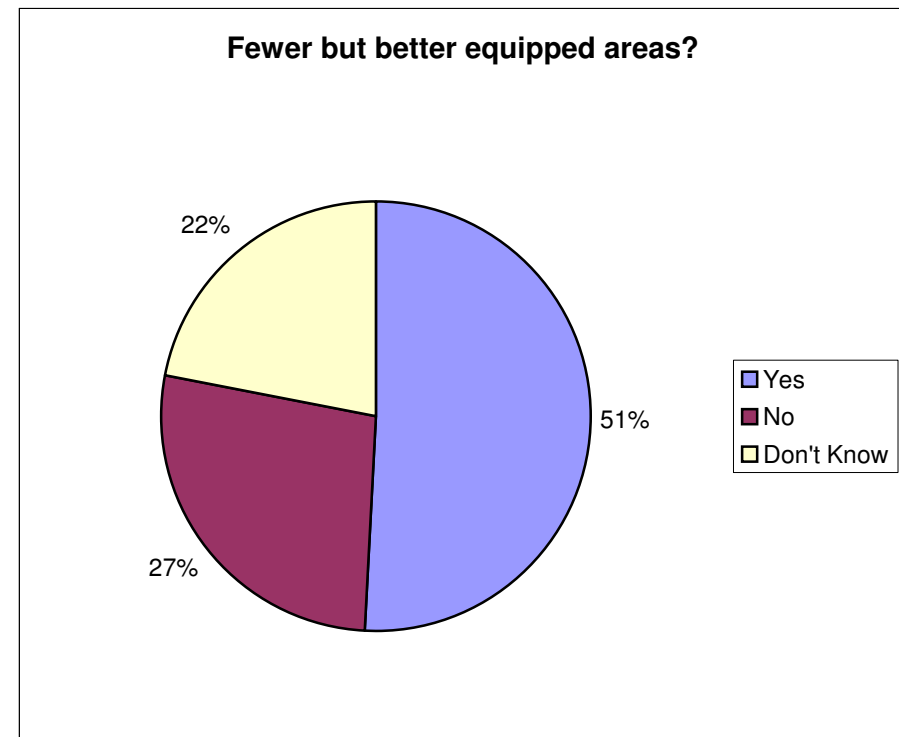
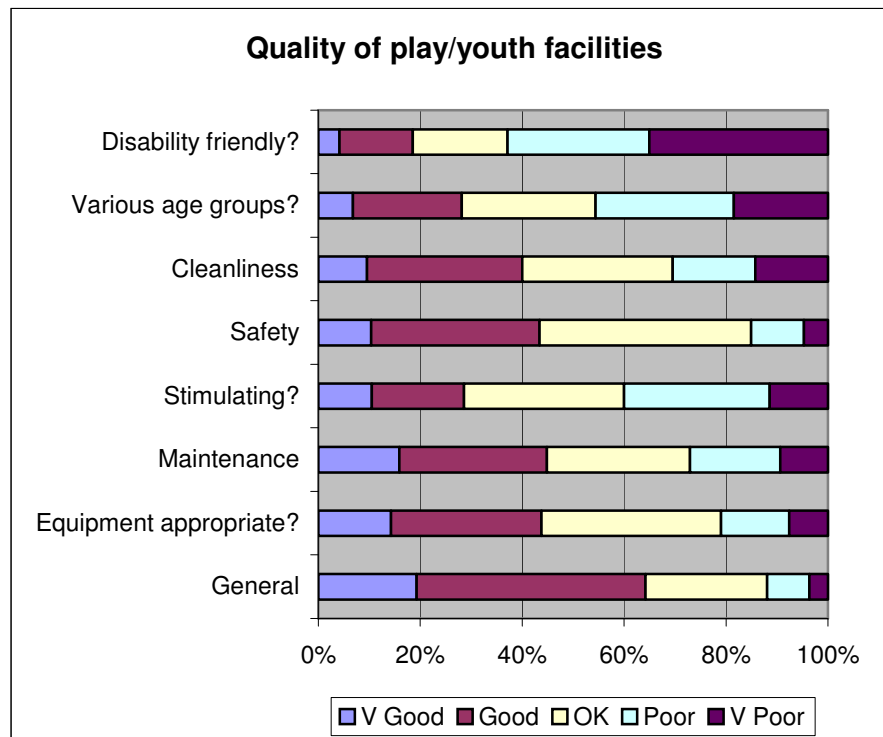


- For younger children parents think that apart from play areas, there are not enough outdoor facilities for their under 12s
- Parents of children 12 and over think there are not enough of any kind of spaces for their children

## Quality of play/youth facilities

Parents were asked the name of the local play space used by their children<sup>6</sup>, to rate it and say why their children do not use it more and also asked if they would prefer to have an accessible network of larger, higher quality sites instead of the current number of small local play areas.

- Over 60% of parents though the general condition and appearance was good or very good
- Around three quarters thought that cleanliness, safety, maintenance and equipment were OK or better
- 30% or less thought that the facility was good or better for various age groups and in terms of stimulating equipment
- Around 10% thought general condition was poor or very poor and just under 40% thought facility was OK or worse
- Over 60% though the facility was poor or very poor in provision for children with disabilities

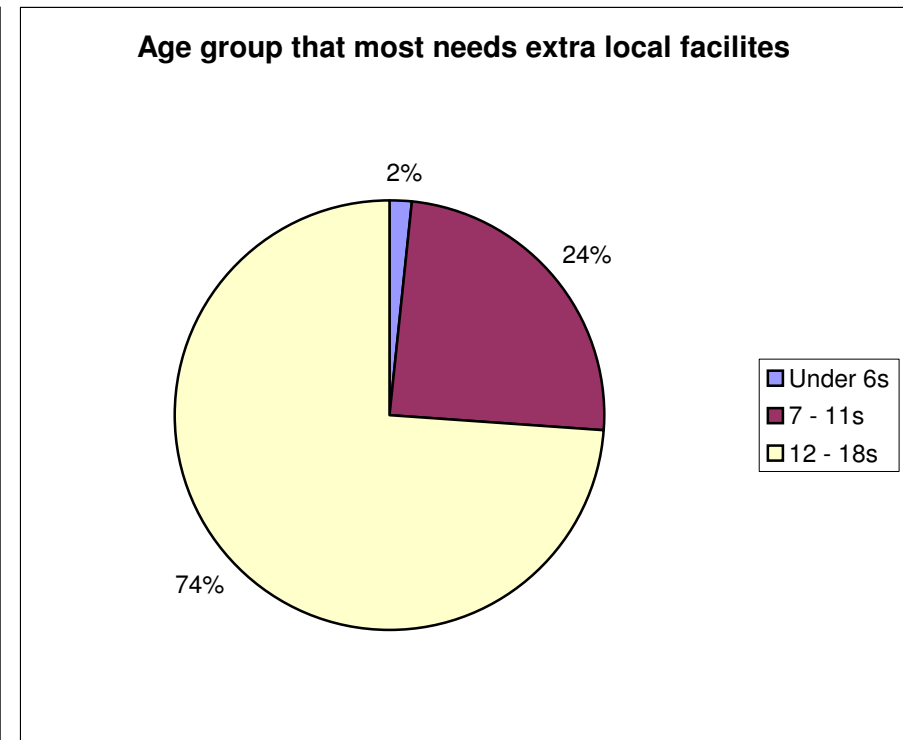
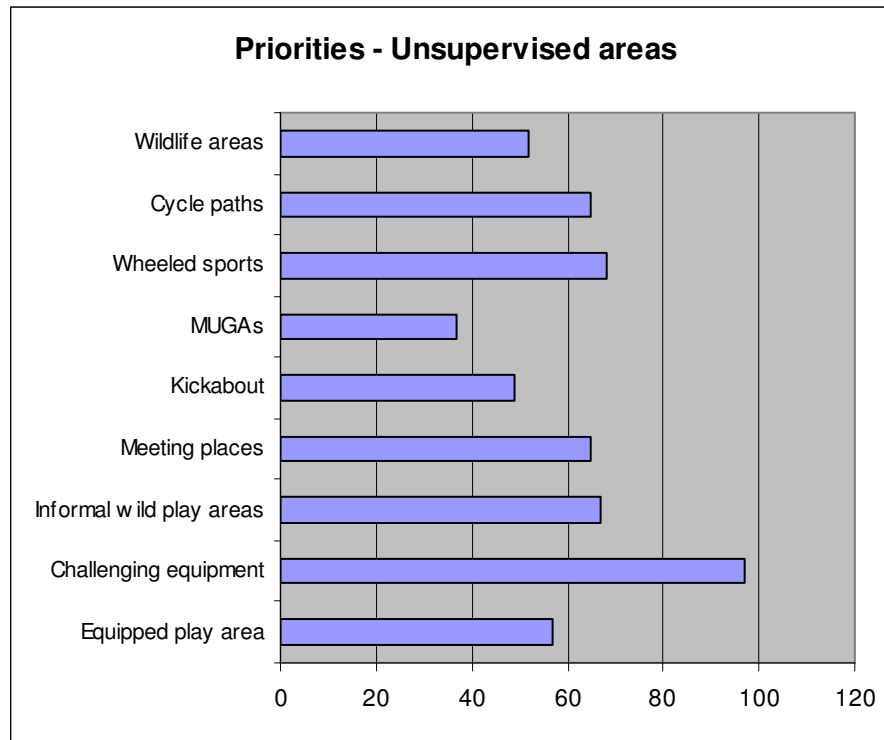


*Parents think play areas should be more attractive and have more stimulating features and that they should cater more for different age groups. Provision for outdoor play for children with disabilities is though to be poor in the District.*

<sup>6</sup> This list can be found in Appendix 8

## Priorities for extra facilities

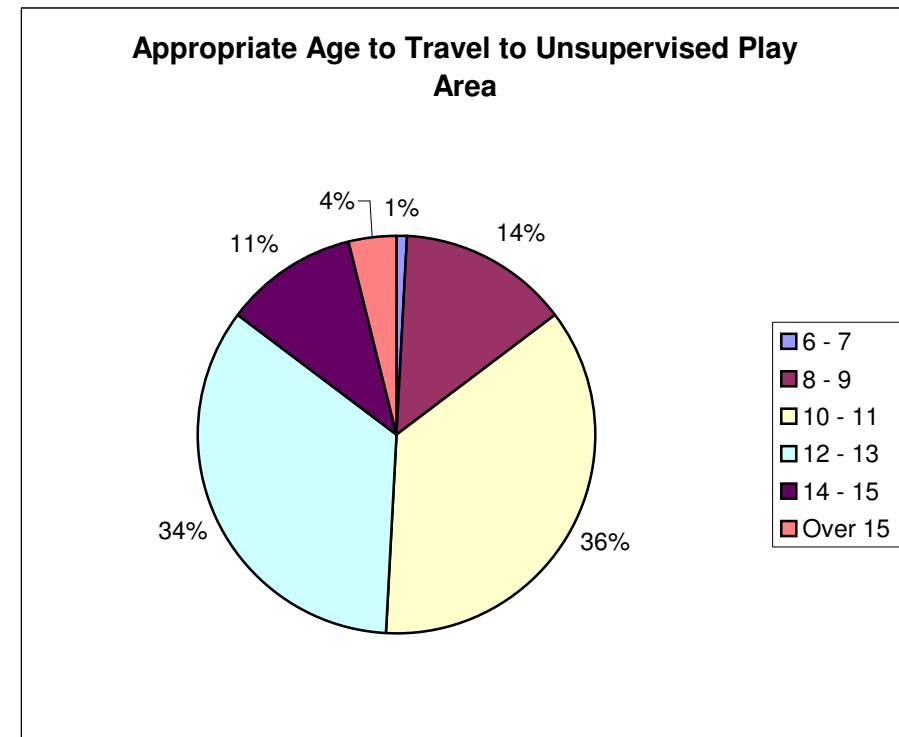
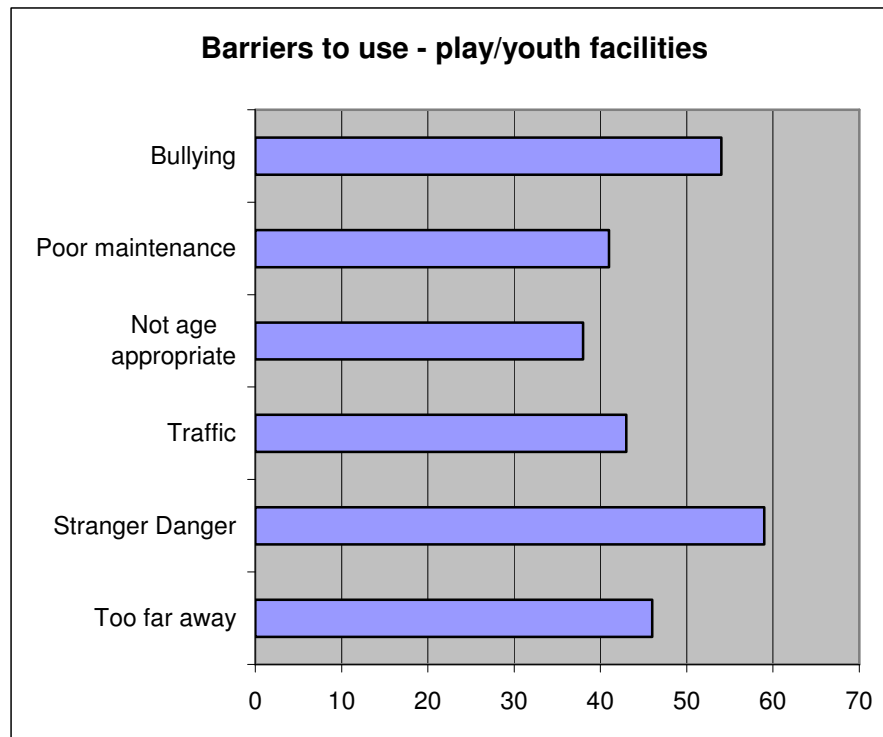
In broad terms we asked parents what kind of additional play facilities were most needed and which age group most needed additional unsupervised facilities.



- Challenging equipment was the top priority
- Informal wild play areas, meeting places, wheeled sports and safe cycle provision are all high priority too
- Parents' view is that teenagers are most in need of extra local facilities

*Teenagers are most in need of extra local facilities. More challenging equipment is needed, as well as more places for young people to meet, informal wild play areas, wheeled sports and cycle paths.*

## Barriers to use



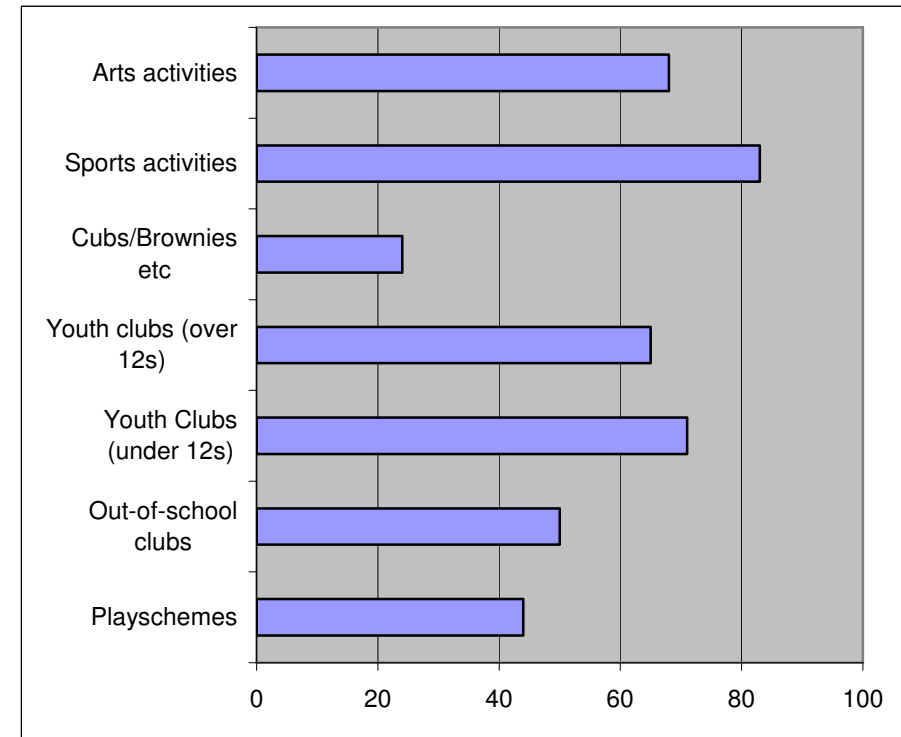
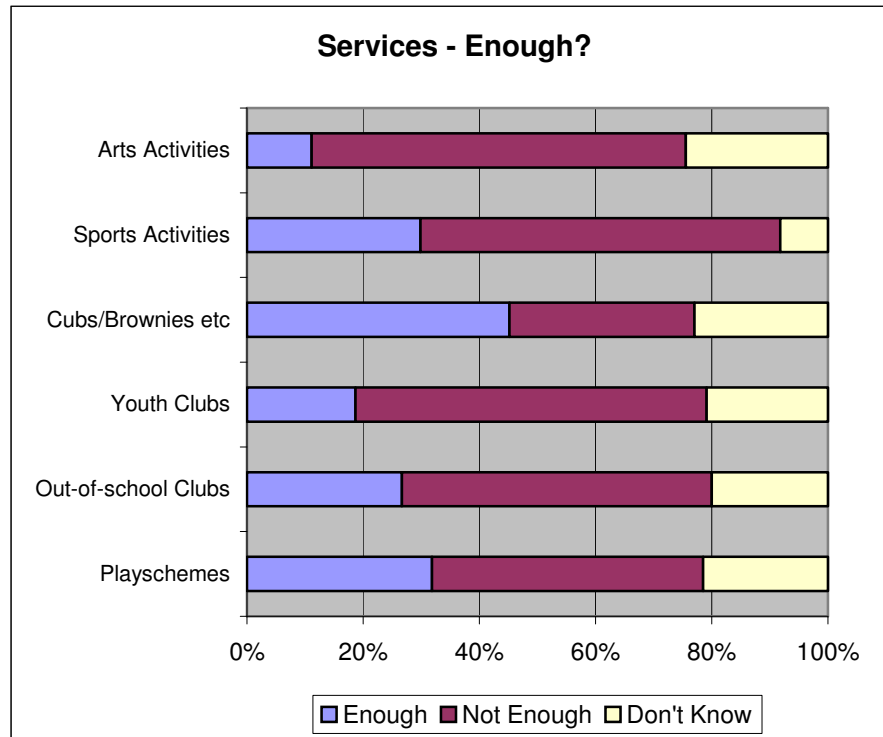
- Parents believe the main barriers to use are safety fears and fear of bullying and intimidation
- Location 'too far away' and traffic danger are significant issues too
- 50% of parents (versus 60% of children) thought that it was reasonable for 8-11s to visit play spaces without an adult
- 15% of parents (versus 32% of children) thought that it was reasonable for 6-9s to visit play spaces without an adult

Parents were also asked to write down any other reasons why their children do not use unsupervised outdoor play facilities more, those comments are shown in Appendix 9.

*Parents are put off using local play facilities more by safety fears, from 'stranger danger', to bullying and intimidation from older children. Parents are deterred by the danger of traffic and facilities being too far away. Maintenance and particularly dog fouling are also barriers to greater use. These barriers make most parents reluctant to allow under 11s to travel unaccompanied to unsupervised play.*

## Play and Youth Services

Parents were asked if whether they thought there were enough of various types of play and youth services and which services they would like to see more of to meet the needs of local CYP.



- Apart from cubs/brownies parents do not think there are enough play services
- Youth clubs, sports and arts activities are priorities for improved / increased provision
- When carried out in other areas the don't knows have been much higher, which could indicate that information for parents on activities is easily available

*Parents' priorities for future service provision are youth clubs for under and over 12s, sports and arts activities. It is important that parents are provided with accessible and readily available information on what services are available to their children.*

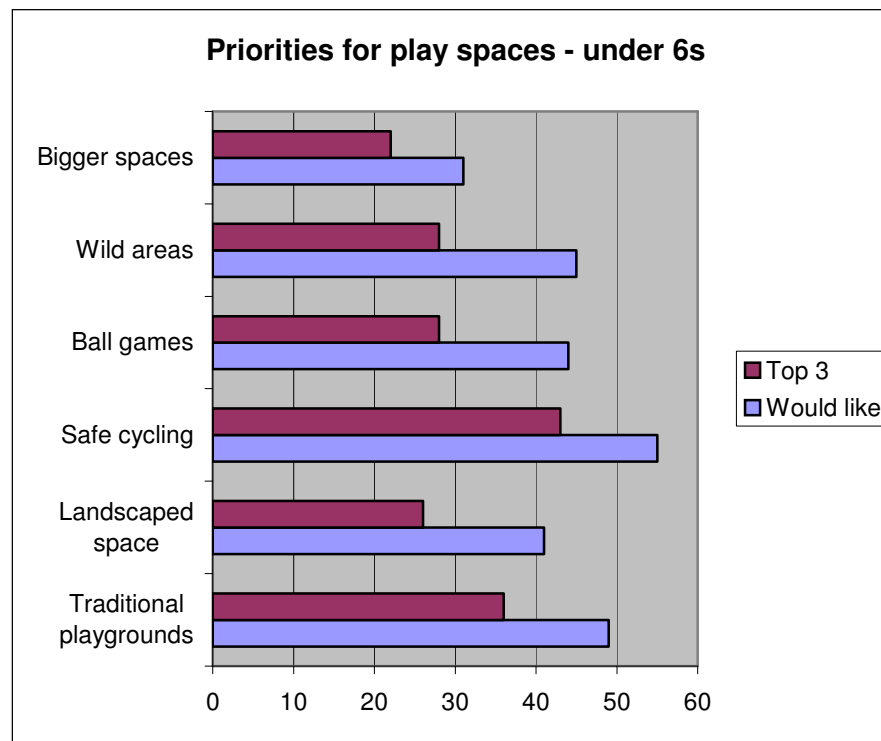
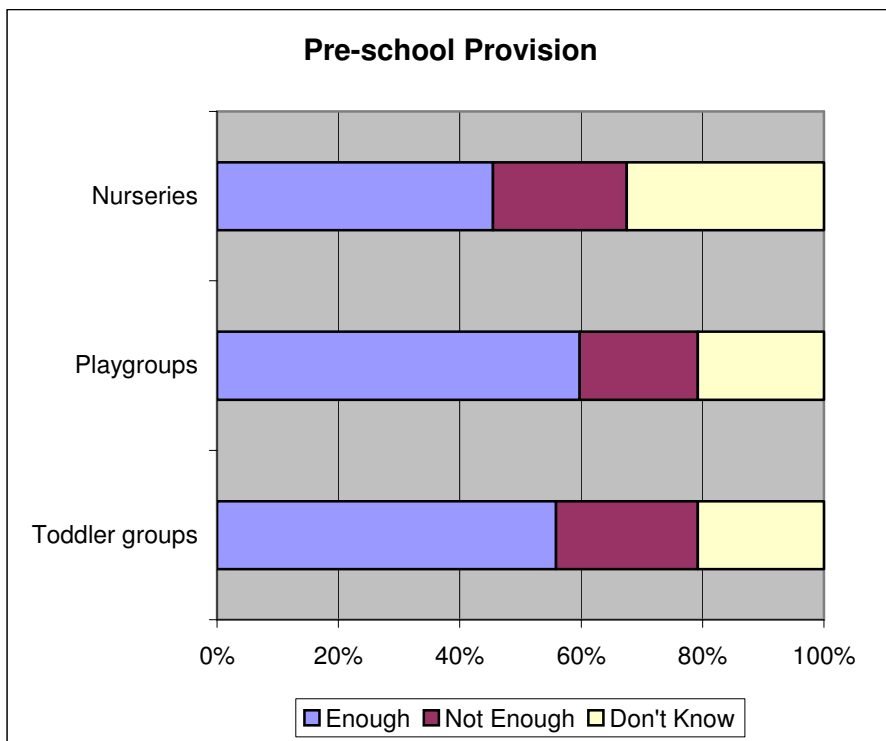
Other suggestions for services included:



- picnic tables (youths could also use them instead of hogging the swings and roundabouts)
- breakfast clubs
- astroturf for football club
- music facilities
- dance classes
- athletics club
- council organised things (contests etc)
- team building projects - help kids learn to socialise and new skills

### Needs of children under 6

Parents with children under 6 were asked to talk to their children and find out what kind of facilities and spaces they preferred.



- The majority of parents of under 6s think there are enough playgroups and toddler groups
- Fewer than half of parents think there are enough nurseries
- The top priority for play spaces for parents of under 6s are more safe places for cycling
- Traditional playgrounds are the second highest, followed by strong support for wild play areas, landscaped areas and places to play ball games

*Key priority for parents of under 6s are more safe places to cycle and safe routes to play space. Parents also support improved and new traditional equipped playgrounds as well as landscaped spaces that offer opportunities for wild play and ball games.*

Other suggestions included:

- indoor play area needed for young children
- picnic benches in a safe environment
- grass mowed short. Glass and mess cleaned regularly; bins emptied
- challenging and stimulating variety of equipment
- keep them dog free

### **General Comments by parents**

Parents were also given the opportunity to add any other comments they had about play facilities and services in the District, they are detailed in Appendix 10.

There are a wide variety of themes, but lots of comments about need for spaces / supervision for older children, to ‘keep them out of trouble’ and stop them intimidating younger age groups that many play areas are intended for. Safe access to play areas and dog control are also often mentioned.

There are also some site-specific issues that need to be investigated.

*Parents want more provision for teenagers to prevent anti-social behaviour and to ensure that younger children are not deterred from using play facilities. More supervision in open spaces and safer access to dog-free parks are also important issues for parents.*

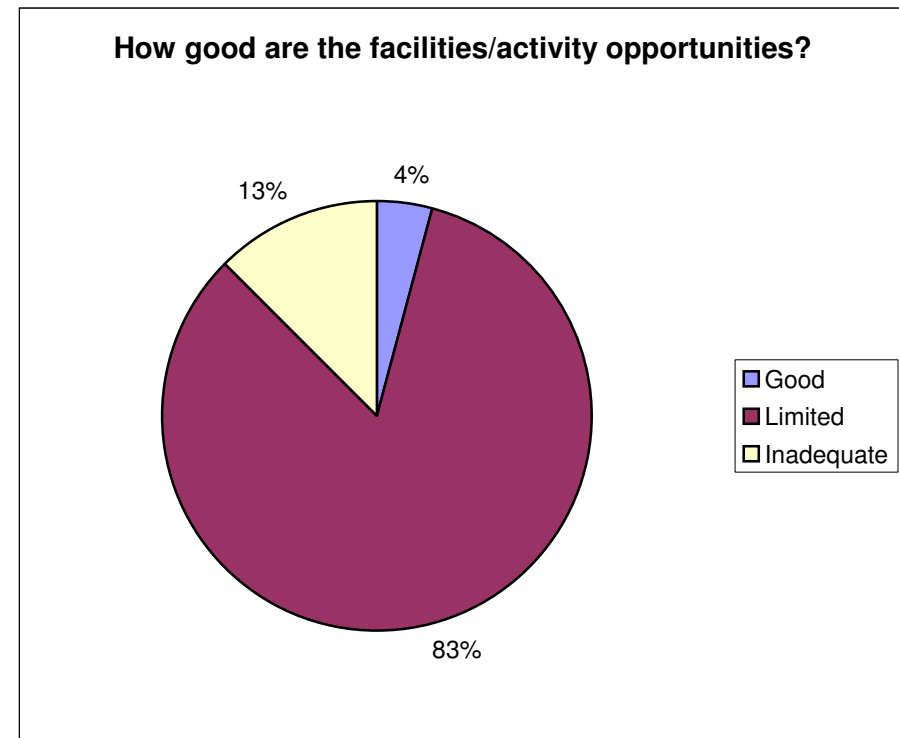
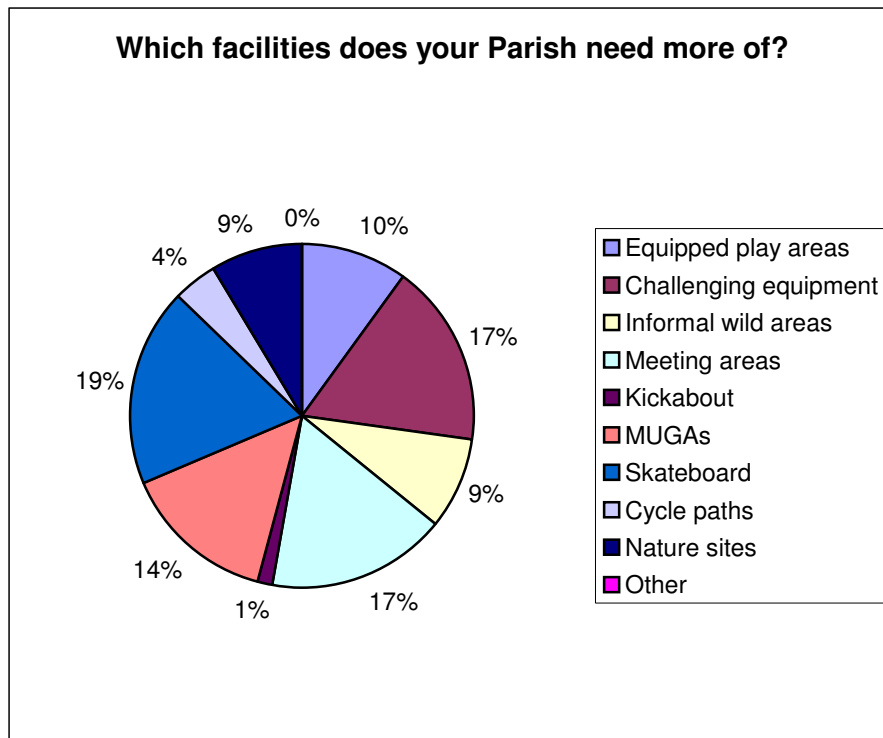
## Parish/ Town Council Survey

All Town and Parish Councils in Sedgemoor were sent a postal survey. They were followed up with emails, phone calls and also offered an opportunity to attend a workshop on the Play Strategy and Lottery bid (see section 3 for write up).

30 out of 54 Councils responded<sup>7</sup>.

This section summarises the results of the survey in relation to the local needs of children and young people across the District.

### Quantity and quality of provision



<sup>7</sup> See Appendix 11 for details of returns

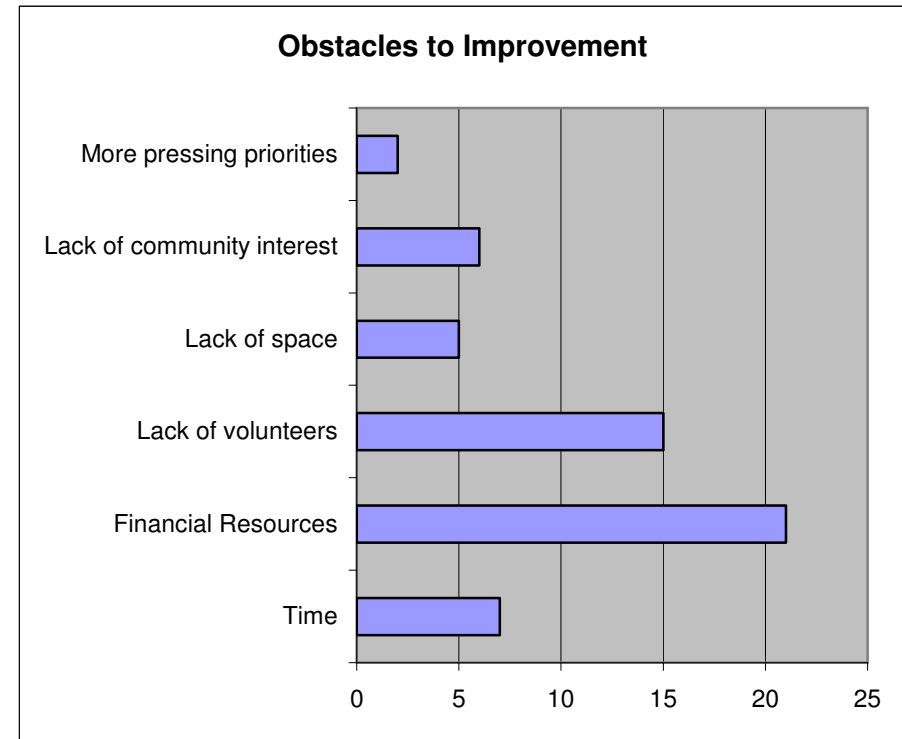
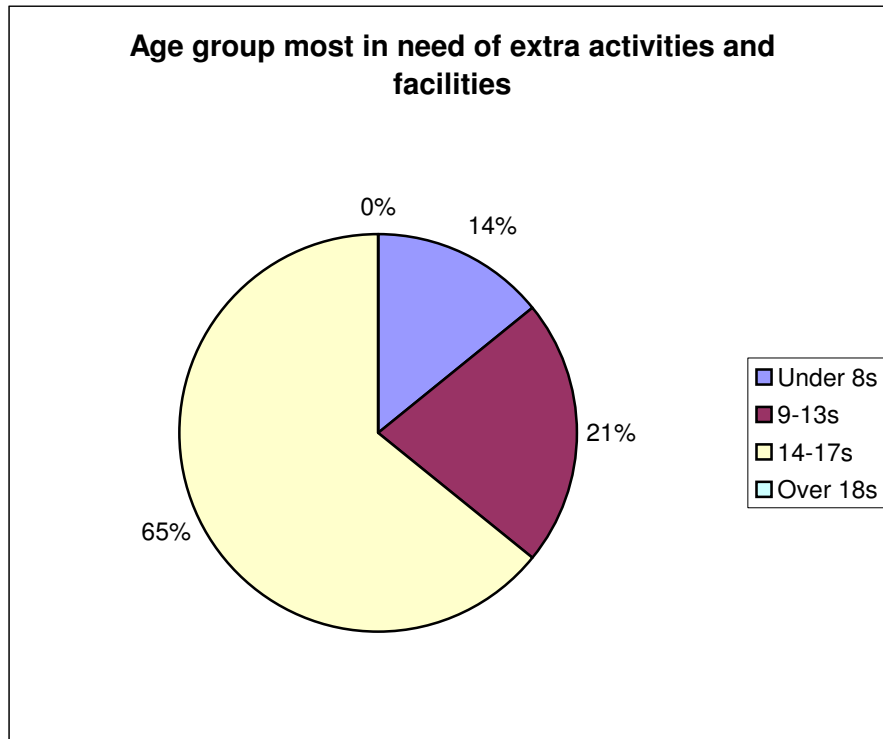
- 81% indicated that there is a general need for additional or improved provision for open space and recreational facilities<sup>8</sup>
- wheeled sports, meeting areas and challenging equipment were the most popular needs, followed by MUGAs
- 83% said available facilities were limited – this is high, even for a rural area

Specific comments relating to play areas were:

- Location & ownership by SDC/ALMO
- Site & delay @ SDC
- Raising funds.
- Finding an appropriate site
- Achieving the necessary funding
- Dog fouling on the open field at Biddisham
- Facility is managed by Playing field Committee
- Vandalism - due to its location it is difficult to secure
- Suitable land within the village centre is not currently available."
- Finding a site: budget constraints.
- Fund raising. Occasional vandalism. Maintenance costs.
- Funding - Cost of renewal will need to be met from Village Hall funds plus some finance from RLT2/3 money from planning agreements in the Parish
- Funding. Woolavington is priority 1 for a MUGA but are waiting for release of developers RLT3 funding for sports schemes (over 3 yrs delay.)
- Funding; complying with safety regulations; replacing like for like items of play equipment; obtaining planning approval; finding alternative facilities for use by the existing clubs whilst improvement works are undertaken.
- Insurance problems due to history of vandalism, etc.
- No land available.
- Occasional vandalism - misuse.
- Playing field is only large enough for the football pitch and a few pieces of play equipment.
- Possible funding.
- Securing sufficient funding.
- Swings being moved away from nearby houses.

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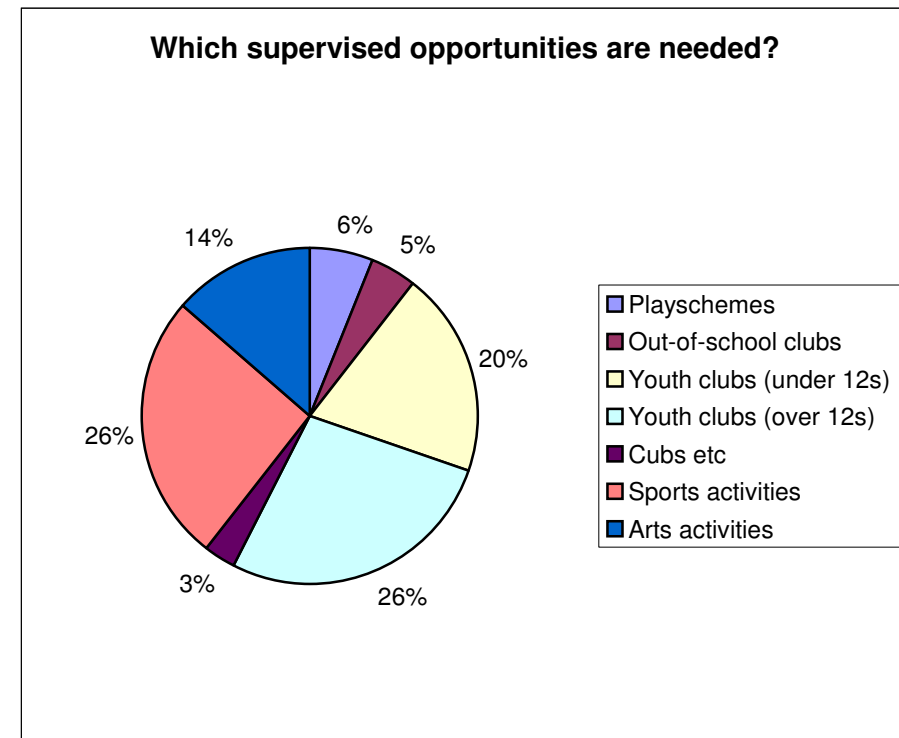
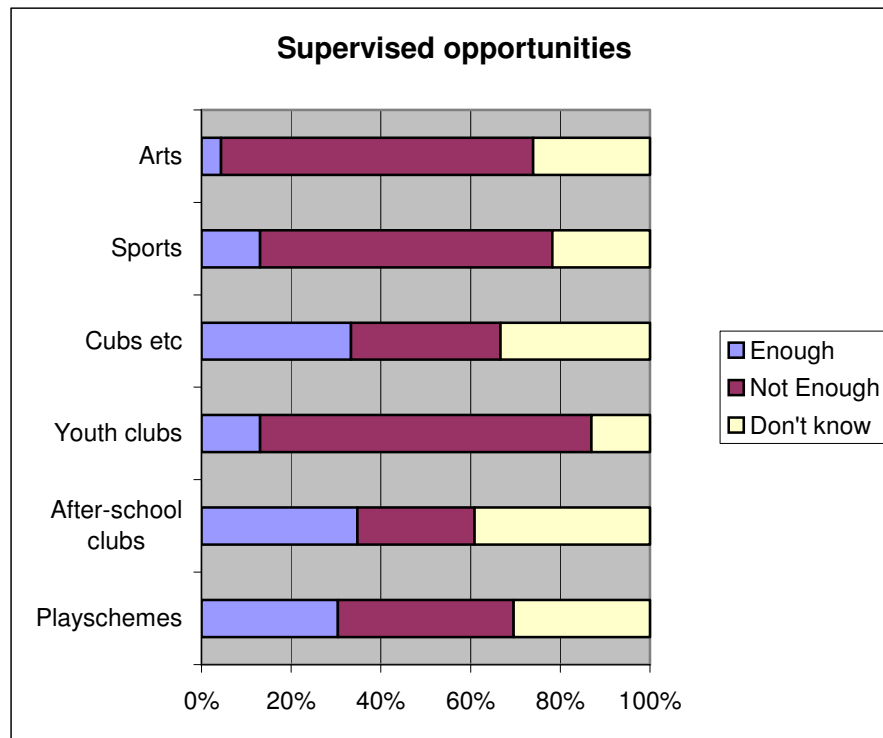
<sup>8</sup> The Councils who responded can have a tendency to be somewhat self-selecting i.e. Some Clerks do not reply if Play is not perceived to be an issue



- Teenagers are the age group most in need of extra resources
- Financial resources and lack of volunteers are the key obstacles to improvement

*Provision of play facilities is limited across the District and teenage provision, like meeting places and skate parks is most needed. Lack of financial resources is the main barrier to improving provision for CYP.*

## Play/Youth services



- Councils believe that there are **not** enough arts and sports activities or particularly youth clubs
- Youth Clubs and After-school clubs are the most needed supervised opportunities

## Other issues for Councils

Councils were asked whether they were aware of any village or community halls that may be capable of being used more for play/youth activities. Some responses are listed below:

- Stockland Sports Club
- Moorland Village Hall
- North Nunton Village Hall
- The Manor Hall is also limited for space so at present there is nowhere to store equipment for proposed youth club
- East Brent

- Spaxton Village Hall, Abshot & Merridge Village Hall, Spaxton Rectory Room.
- Mark Village Hall.
- Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall.
- Village Hall, School Hall, Pub Skittle Alleys have been used in the past.
- Otterhampton Village Hall.
- Old Schoolroom, Stone Allerton.
- Village Community Centre or Church Hall.
- Chedzoy Village Hall.
- Middlezoy Community Project.
- Cossington Village Hall is to be redeveloped during the next 2 years - greater scope to develop youth activities in new hall.

Councils were given the opportunity to make any other comments, see below:

- Wembdon children and youth use Bridgwater for facilities and activities
- We get considerable help from the Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association and hope that it will continue
- The Village Hall and Playing Field Committee would like to improve on other play equipment (seesaw is 50 yrs old and needs to be replaced) - Currently insufficient funds.
- Need for more supervised sport activities. With Britain due to hold the Olympic games we should be nurturing the sporting talent of young.
- Limited interest on daily/weekly basis to maintain & supervise is the most difficult to overcome for improved or multiple facilities.
- CRB check system needs to be simplified so that people do not need to be checked for every organisation for which they volunteer
- Cannot get local adults to volunteer to help with any activities for the children

*Town and Parish Councils believe that there need to be more supervised activity opportunities like youth clubs and after school clubs, particularly for teenagers. Lack of financial resources and adult volunteers are significant barriers for Councils wishing to improve provision.*

### 3. Focus Groups and Surgery Findings

*Each group or individual was given the opportunity to say, from their perspective, what they think are the key issues associated with play and young people associated issues in the District. They were asked to highlight good and bad practice and areas for improvement and suggest ideas for projects that would address the issues they raised. To encourage frank comment, it was decided that the names of the people involved in the various meetings would not be recorded in this paper.*

*All members of the Play Partnership have been consulted through a survey, during Partnership meetings and through offers of individual surgery slots. Their views are therefore shown in various sections below.*

#### **Young People at a drop-in session at the ReCreation centre**

The children and young people were asked what was good about their local play opportunities, what they like doing and what's not so good. They were also asked what they might do if they were given £50,000 to improve their free time.

#### Good points:

- good activities at ReCreation (RC)
- enjoys trips run by RC
- RC is a good place to meet friends, as home is boring
- like the RC because it is safe and the door is locked
- don't get bullied at the RC
- RC keeps people off streets
- RC is best thing about Hamp Estate
- naughty people have to behave at RC, they get warnings if they don't
- safe from mugging at RC
- meet new people at RC
- like to volunteer in café at RC
- like to play at friends' houses
- like to ride BMX, do stunts

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- don't use parks as gangs of older kids hang around them
- older kids call me names when I go past – it's intimidating
- nowhere safe to ride bike



- older kids pick on you when not in RC
- RC Is not open at weekends
- RC could do with more games

What would you do with £50,000:

- have a quiet place to watch TV with friends
- skate/BMX park
- bigger version of RC's safe area - to play in
- use it to keep RC running
- garden to grow things to cook and eat

**Police Community Support Officer Surgery**

Good points:

- complaints about kids playing in street are normally because residents are concerned for their safety, due to volume and speed of traffic
- not much criminal behaviour by young people
- referrals to YISP (Young Inclusion Support Programme) are good for vulnerable young people who benefit from 1-1 support, provided through trips and activities
- Young Somerset have are helpful providers of support, advice, resources
- Millennium Volunteers are useful resources for ReCreation Centre

Problems and areas for improvement:

- generally have nothing to do with Youth Service
- most anti-social behaviour is because young people have nowhere to go and nothing to do
- have to move CYP on, but normally just re-locates the problem

## Hamp Community Association Focus Group

### Good points:

- HCA has carried out a very useful and large YP consultation exercise about ASB (2005-6) – See Appendix 1 for some extracted comments of interest
- Hamp Estate kids are a good bunch of kids who get on well and look out for each other
- ReCreation centre is fantastic
- RC has made a real difference to the area
- RC's approach of respect for others, yourself and the building is very effective
- CYP who have been involved in RC have become more respectful and happier
- Summer Challenge is a good scheme that runs during the holidays
- Dreammaker scheme is a great dance and theatre group based at RC
- YISP, Young Somerset and Millennium Volunteers all have a positive impact on local CYP
- Bridgwater Arts Centre do some good schemes
- Toddler part of Mansfield Park was re-equipped, including a DDA compliant slide
- HCA has helped local people get trained up as play workers, there are local people with skills to promote and supervise play
- HCA has laid on trips for CYP, helped seek funding and source resources
- local people do offer to do activities with CYP e.g. fishing
- Thursday evenings at YMCA offer some good activities

### Problems and areas for improvement:

- Mansfield Park is badly maintained and consequently not in good enough condition for football
- there is no play equipment at Gloucester Road Park
- there are problems with dog fouling at Mansfield Park
- Rhode Lane Wanderers football team cannot play on local park, because its condition
- Gloucester Road Park teenage facilities are in poor condition
- Gloucester Rd Park DDA compliant slide attracts anti-social behaviour, including urinating down the slide, arson and place to through 'missiles' from
- trying to cater for CYP with disabilities is costly and can result in lower overall provision for everyone
- facilities for different age groups are not separate and this causes problems
- some play equipment is damaged by dogs being trained on them
- there is a general lack of dog bins
- local teens, when consulted, wanted a MUGA, but Council said that there was not space and they only got a basketball hoop
- there is no lighting at the hoop

- many play areas are surrounded by housing and this can result in conflict between CYP and local residents
- some residents count playing on street as anti-social behaviour
- ball games result in complaints about noise and damage
- there is no CCTV – which prevents YP’s ASB
  
- many local CYP cannot afford to access swimming or ‘MacDonalds’
- many local CYP have very narrow horizons and aspirations as they have never been far from home / the Estate
- no consideration of how Hamp Estate residents might access facilities (like Country Park) the new development at North Petherton is being given
  
- RC is shut in evenings
- there are no drop-in sessions at RC most of the day during holidays
- County Youth Service have been barred from running sessions at RC, as they were not controlling groups of YP effectively
- Youth Service are not fully engaged partners in RC
- local Police Community Support Officer does not work in conjunction with Youth Service – there has been in flux in the local team, so relationships have not been built
- did have a good detached Youth Service, running 3 sessions per week, but do not have that now
- there is minimal Youth Service delivery on Hamp Estate, when it should be a priority area for them
- Youth Service do not respond positively requests e.g. requested trips to airfield at Weston Zoyland to do mini-moto activities, but no enthusiasm for overcoming health and safety and hurdles
- Youth Service does not work at weekends
- Youth Service detached work happens on Thursday pms only, which coincides with the night many Hamp youngsters access activities at the YMCA
- Summer Challenge has been restricted to challenging kids, which can result in an incentive to misbehave (better recently)
- Summer Challenge funding is not secure
- Blake school is supposed to be extended, but they find the idea of free access play too challenging and are therefore reluctant to improve youth offer
- HCA’s focus is families and older residents, not youth
- can be difficult to utilise skills and enthusiasm of local people due to beaurocratic hurdles these days e.g. CRB / health and safety
  
- CYP today have so much less freedom to play – not allowed things like rope swings
- Hamp Estate used to have a supervised traditional adventure playground, which was very popular – there is no such provision now
- there is a lack of places for CYP to learn new activities together with their friends
- there are not the opportunities for ‘risky play’ and CYP are tempted into anti-social behaviour to test boundaries and often impinges on local people
- YP’s freedom to move around is more restricted than 20 years ago – due to media hype about paedophiles

- real dangers from traffic, sometimes traffic calming can result in creation of rat runs where volume and speed are high e.g. Wills Road
- getting to the YMCA activities can involve a 'dangerous' journey

### **Bridgwater College Forest School Surgery**

See 'Play Partnership' section for issues raised through interviewee's 'pro-forma'.

#### Good points:

- Forest School activities are popular with parents and CYP
- Sessions bought in by Youth Service in past have been successful
- Forest School allows CYP to enjoy outdoor play, explore risk and learn in a supervised and encouraging environment
- Health and Safety is not a problem, as activities have been planned carefully, but still allowing CYP to be trusted
  
- Rollercoaster and ReCreation Centre
- Cannington has a good play area
- Skate ramp at Nether Stowey appears to be well used

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- lots of CYP have difficulty accessing outdoor play
- lack of CYP's parents do not play outdoors with them
- lack of funding prevents the running of programmes of:
  - holiday playschemes
  - fun days
  - after-school clubs
  - informal supervision of outdoor play
  - trips to woodlands

### **Access to Play for Black and Minority Ethnic Young People Focus Group**

This group included parents of, and people who work specifically with, BME CYP.

Good points:

- YMCA lays on some good activities and has good resources
- good regular evening activities run by Racial Inclusion Project (RIP) at YMCA
- Rollercoaster is fantastic
- Sydenham Family Centre offers lots of support to BME families as well as trips and activities
- links between Youth Service and RIP are improving
- CYP in Sydenham area are responsive to positive attention and activities and will play together well
- the majority of CYP are ‘good kids’, especially when they have something to do
- appropriate gym sessions for Moslem females (not CYP) has been set up at YMCA, which shows people from all groups can be catered for
- family day at the Sydenham Family Centre, for Asian women and friends is very popular

Problems and areas for improvement:

- BME families and individuals in Sedgemoor tend to be isolated
- there are not really any BME communities, although there are a growing number ‘enclaves’ of migrant workers
- BME families are often ‘too scared to go out’
- Police response to racial incidents can be very dependent on the attitude of the individual officer involved
- many public services have not yet ‘got their head around’ the issues faced by BME individuals in accessing all sorts of services
- Bridgwater College has been resistant to assistance from groups like RIP, when dealing with racial incidents – apparent ‘closed door policy’
- BME CYP often do not access services, facilities and activities due to the fear of and actual racial bullying
- access to play opportunities for BME CYP are restricted by this fear
- racial incidents have occurred at the Rollercoaster and parks
- intimidation and bullying are problems when accessing CYP’s provision and during the journey to such places (YP have had their bikes stolen when travelling to play opportunities)
- parents of BME CYP are reluctant to let their children travel far from home unsupervised – this can lead to these CYP playing in ‘inappropriate’ places that cause disturbance to other local people
- one of chief causes of bullying is lack of more constructive things for YP to do
- there is an overall lack of provision for YP – after-school, playschemes, holiday activities
- Dispersal Orders have re-located YP to places where there is less for them to do
- Rollercoaster is only open once a week to local kids and has even had to close down for a period due to vandalism
- there is not enough detached youth work in places like Sydenham

- YP of Sydenham are written off by some Police Officers
- links between RIP and Youth Service have been poor in recent times
  
- some Sydenham residents want the local Youth Shelter to be removed as attracts YP
- the Police do not follow through on promises to bring skate ramps etc to the local park
- there are no football posts in Chamberlain Park
- there is no lighting in the Park – so kids hang out on streets causing tensions to arise
- there is a reluctance by local people to get involved in resolving issues that arise between different member so community – Police called as first move
- difficult to build relationships with Police as too many different Officers can be involved in sorting out issues – nothing gets done and BME YP in particular can start to lose trust in Police to help

Note:

Experience elsewhere suggests that some of the issues likely to be relevant to children and young people from BME backgrounds will include:

- Isolation - children and young people can feel quite isolated when they are in a minority.
- Children and young people from minority ethnic backgrounds can also feel very “visible” due to this isolation.
- They may experience some incidence of racial abuse or harassment incidents which may put them off using play facilities. This is likely to be under-reported.
- It may be helpful for those working with the children and young people from BME backgrounds to have training on the implications of the cultural and ethnic differences.
- There may be a need to use languages other than English, particularly for publicity targeted at parents and carers.

### **Access to Play for Children and Young People with Disabilities Focus Group**

Three families attended following an invitation from Impact. Jo Skitterall, young persons advocate, attended on behalf of Impact.

In Bridgwater there are two special schools – Penrose (complex needs) and Elmwood (moderate learning difficulties). Somerset County has a well-established policy of educating disabled children in mainstream schools. All the children who attended were in mainstream schools.

The families had different experiences with accessing play in Sedgemoor from the point of view of having physical and mental disabilities, and of living in the town and rural areas.

Good points:

- The play area at Clarks Village is very useful because it only has one entrance point and is fenced which stops Edward escaping. I can relax knowing he's not going to be able to run off. In most play areas we need two people to watch him. We do use our local park in East Huntspill but it is too open – easy for him to escape into the fields.
- Some of the children/young people said that CCTV cameras were a good idea and helped to make them feel safer. One father said that it needed to be enforced though to be effective, and it wasn't.
- Some examples of play services were given that were accessed by the group: Barnardo's runs two youth groups (in Taunton) that offered a range of activities, for example swimming.
- The Young Farmer's group at Wedmore is brilliant – it will adapt to suit you, rather than expecting you to adapt to it. It doesn't matter what your disability is. It feels very welcoming and we are happy to go. Its free.
- Highbridge offers a specialist asbergers group every third Saturday which is very good. It's a youth club which is quite relaxed and the kids can do what they want to. They have one room which is slightly dark which is good for my eldest as he finds the light difficult sometimes. Its also a good opportunity to meet other parents as they stay on as well. Its free.
- YHA summer activity programme – reasonably priced (unlike Kilve which is extortionate) and inclusive.

Problems and areas for improvement:

- We are often asked to leave mainstream organised activities because the staff do not have the resources – either the skills or sufficient numbers of staff – to manage the different requirements that our children have. At football camp for example the staff leave him alone to go to the loo, which you just can't do with someone like Edward. It feels very isolating to be singled out and asked to go.
- We don't have any play equipment that is wheelchair accessible near us. For example we used a special roundabout once which was great fun as G could join in with the other children. But there's nothing like that around here.
- [when told there was an adapted swing on the Hamp estate] we wouldn't go there.
- One of the young people explained how he couldn't use his local park, Stanley park, because of bullying. This was a common experience that the whole group related to: "if there's no adult supervision around you will definitely be targeted".
- Parents said they wouldn't let their children go to the Rollercoaster or YMCA as they felt that behaviour wouldn't be managed appropriately – they're given too much freedom.
- Its important to remember that many disabled kids don't like to feel under peer pressure: they know they don't fit in as 'normal' and feel under a lot of pressure because of this.

*If given £50k worth of funding what would you spend it on?*

- Invest in improved wheelchair access to existing play facilities. It is not good currently.
- A publication to give you ideas for things to do in the summer holidays – like the one published by the YHA.
- Play schemes with appropriate staffing levels and expertise – including personal care skills which are needed for looking after disabled children when their parents aren't there. It's not just play skills. Staff need to be able to build relationships with families – parents and children – in order for the family to feel comfortable about leaving children with schemes.
- More cycling facilities.
- Paint balling – on a giant scale!
- Some indoors activities which are weather proof.
- Graffiti walls to divide play grounds so that the older children can have their bit but it's sectioned off from the younger children to protect them.

### Opportunities

- Provide a guide or diary that gives an easy guide to what is available. Jo interjected to say that this existed in a publication called Find Your Way – although it hadn't been updated since 2004.

### **ReCreation Centre Surgery**

#### Good things:

- the centre is well used by young people from the estate from 4 to 19 years and is very well regarded by them. It is open 9 til 6 pm Monday to Friday with a programme of some evening activities.
- the centre runs a drop in service during the holiday for £1.
- made a video of young people talking about what they think about the centre in which they talk about how they used to get into trouble hanging around the streets and now they have somewhere warm and safe to go with 'fun' things to do which are much more interesting than hanging around the streets!
- the fire brigade has reported a dramatic reduction in the incidence of fires on the estate since the centre opened. When it reduced its opening hours the rate went up slightly.
- the local community police officer Helen Whitehead (DCSO) reports that there has been a marked reduction in the incidents that they are called to on the estate
- the centre has experienced "no vandalism" – "even while it was being built, nothing was taken from the site" ... "it's because they see it as their building we have had no vandalism whatsoever".
- the centre also has a behaviour policy and children and young people are banned for 24 hours from the centre if they misbehave three times.



- The centre offers both a child care and a drop in service. The child care service picks up children from the local school for working parents and brings them back to the centre until 6 pm for £5. They wear special T Shirts and walk back in a walking bus. The drop in facility starts from 6 pm. This is an unusual combination – “Ofsted find it hard to inspect us” – but it matches the needs of the parents who can’t afford to pay any more for their child care out of their wages. “if we didn’t do this many of them would not be able to afford to pay for child care to allow them to work.”
- The chair of the community association, Julie Raven, does a lot of volunteering at the centre and is very involved and supportive.
- The centre has a café and offers healthy food for the children for a minimal cost. “We don’t have any sweets and we don’t allow smoking or drinking”. They have had events introducing the children and young people to fruit and smoothies
- one of the young people (13 years old) is particularly keen on working in the café and the centre has supported him in getting his hygiene certificate. He is clocking up hours as a volunteer that are equivalent to a grade 3 GCSE in volunteering.
- the children and young people have designed and led a number of fundraising activities for the centre including a ‘sleep over’ and face painting.
- the centre has its own CCTV centre which allows it to monitor behaviour outside of the building.
- the staff who work at the centre “all love what they do”.
- the centre has recently opened every other Saturday morning running a Fun Seekers club which is popular.

#### Not so good things:

- the funding for the centre comes from SRB and is due to run out just after March this year. So far no alternative funding source has been identified. Current estimated operating costs at around £80k pa
- the centre has had to restrict its opening hours from 7 – 11 pm to 9 – 6 pm because there’s not enough money to fund the staff for longer hours
- there is ‘nothing’ on the estate to do – no parks or skate parks. The nearest facility is the YMCA which is some distance
- children/young people get moved on from Mansfield park because of complaints from local residents about noise. Local foot ball group, Road Lane Wanderers are trying to raise funding for some spot lights to improve the park.
- the County Youth Service use the centre on a Monday night from 7 to 9 pm for 20 13 – 21 year olds , and also run a detached service on the estate on Thursday nights
- do not feel that this level of provision from the CYS is a sufficient response to the needs of the 2000 children and young people that live on the estate. For example, they don’t offer anything for 4 to 13 year olds.
- there have been problems with behaviour of the young people involved in the youth service session for Monday nights
- feels that the CYS are perceived as a “soft touch” by the young people.
- main problem lies with the 8 to 12 year age group and the centre “tries to pull them in after school” to give them constructive things to do.
- centre tries to work co-operatively with schools, for instance on joint monitoring of child protection issues. However although they have developed a useful partnership with Hamp Community school, they have not been able to do the same with Blake Science school “the school has massive grounds and coaches could go in and use the grounds to teach football, rugby out of hours”

## Early Years Childcare Service Surgery

### Good points:

- National Play Day held at the YMCA has been popular and successful – it's free, lots of activities and good supervision
- Forest School is much loved by those who experience it
- Many local providers of play resources and opportunities do a good job; e.g. Scrap store and Chilton Trinity Play, Kings Wessex and King Alfred playschemes

### Problems and areas for improvement:

- play has never been at the top of Sedgemoor District Council's agenda – it is undervalued
- there is a general lack of affordable playschemes across the whole of Sedgemoor – particularly for 5-8 age range
- CRB checks and other bureaucratic hurdles are a barrier to getting community involvement in providing sustaining play opportunities
- Play Day has historically not been supported by District Council (though will be at Apex Park in 2007)
- Police and Fire Service have not supported the play day, though they have been approached on many occasions
  
- Children's Centres often lack space for outdoor play in their grounds – this limits play opportunities for children
- funding and space for outdoor play at such centres is often a low priority – building is key focus
- centre of Burnham and Cheddar lack childcare provision
  
- lack of supervision, such as Play Rangers, puts many CYP and their families off going to parks – especially younger children
- CYP have difficulty getting around safely, by for example bike, due to lack of cycle lanes and heavy traffic
- play spaces are last thing to be considered in many new developments, with developers building 200 household at a time to avoid having to make provision for play

### What project might you do with £50,000:

- more playschemes
- more Forest School
- Play Rangers

## **Somerset Learning alliance Surgery**

### Good points:

- views play as a very important part of the extended schools remit.
- Although it is early days an infrastructure for delivering the extended schools agenda is being put into place in Sedgemoor. For example, a new extended schools person starts in post at Blake School on Monday (26 Feb)
- the youth service do a good job within the resources available to them in a “hugely difficult down” – difficult because of the deprivation and the division between Sydenham and Hamp estates.
- currently involved in a mapping exercise to pull together all the providers of sports and arts activities in the area and develop a central over view of who is offering what in the area. Once this is done it will provide a useful resource in terms of identifying gaps.
- Seems to be an increase in DCSOs. New Chief Inspector seems good too. (Andy Cohen is the youth strategy officer for the police).
- YMCA seems to do good work.

### Problems and areas for improvement:

- Concerns around lack of things to do for 8 to 13 year olds in the evenings and holidays comes up at locality meetings frequently.
- Because of capacity problems, schools struggle to engage with external agencies effectively. Many will need a cultural change in order to be able to deliver extended schools type activity.

### Opportunities

- the forest school approach as a potential project which could be shared across a number of venues/members of the play partnership.
- Play rangers – particularly targeting the 8 to 13 year olds identified in locality meetings as needing additional constructive activity.
- recommends that the play strategy aims to makes links with the localities to help it achieve sustainability beyond the short term (ie it has longer term funding than delivery of the extended schools agenda).

## **Wildlife Trust Surgery**

### Good points:

- ‘Watch Club’ and family events at venues like Fyne Court
- expertise in special needs and CYP with disabilities at Fyne Court
- ‘Big Draw’ event at Fyne Court – which is a popular and good resource
- lots of young people focused volunteers who are outdoor enthusiasts

- WT trains and supports volunteers to work with YP
- Successful link up and partnership with ReCreation – free trips to Quantocks and Exmoor – RC YP are well behaved, enthusiastic and good to work with
- ‘Young Roots’ funds a project officer
- some good work with YP who live very close to rural areas, but don’t / are not able to access the countryside
- Police report anecdotal reduced ASB when YP are on Friday trips out to countryside
- outdoors play can be a particularly good way of engaging Dad’s
- WT are big supporters of Forest Schools

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- perception that WT are appealing only to white middle-classes
- perception that priority is conservation ahead of e.g. getting YP to connect with outdoors
- perception that more interested in plants and animals than people
- lack of knowledge of fact that WT work at sites that are not necessarily their own

### **Community Safety Officer Surgery**

#### Good points:

- there are moves to get YP more involved in Local Action Teams
- Police co-ordinator does positive work in bringing organisations together
- a lot of work is done to identify YP at risk of exclusion and getting involved in criminal behaviour
- Community Safety team has good links with Police – who appear to have a good understanding of importance of youth provision
- Lots of positive projects at the YMCA e.g. ‘Captain Pugwash’ barge project
- Police Community Support Officers are good at building relationships with YP, as their work patterns mean they are often around at the time when issues arise (unlike Youth Service)
- Hamp ASB survey was a useful piece of work – particularly if it is revisited to judge impact of initiatives
- Rural Youth Project’s work has led to demonstrable reduction in fear of crime
- Mobile skate ramps (Police owned) are very popular when they are taken out

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- very little for YP who are not vulnerable or involved in ASB
- Summer Challenge’s impact is limited by it being a limited number of days it operates and for a limited number of YP

- there is no graffiti wall – when criminal damage is a big problem and YP have called for such facilities
- YP are seen potential troublemakers
- a lot of negative perception about YP – reduced tolerance of ‘kids being kids’
- requests for mobile CCTV are growing – often wanted for open spaces, areas for recreation
- responses to YP hanging about in open spaces are overwhelmingly negative (e.g. Dispersal Orders), as oppose to positive moves to e.g. lay on activities
- Councillors can be very negative about YP – assuming that they will cause trouble – tar all YP with same brush
- residents complain if facilities are lit
- residents complain if facilities are not lit
  
- Local Action Teams are currently very adult focused
- new development soften have provision for younger children, but less for youth (13-16) – can lead to youths hanging out at play areas, putting off use by intended users
- Rollercoaster is only open one evening per week for local CYP (Sydenham)
- Youth Service don’t work weekends, even though this is when ASB peaks
- there is a general lack of weekend and evening activities
- information on what is available could be better

#### What project might help:

- graffiti wall
- trailer project – with ramps/equipment/lighting
- deployable supervised activities in locations where YP already gather – intelligence on locations from Safer Sedgemoor Partnership

### **Bridgwater Arts Centre Surgery**

#### Good points:

- ‘arts’ can help CYP increase their self-esteem and aspirations
- half-term and summer activities in Victoria are very popular and free – Children’s Fund funded
- 15-25 CYP at half-term aged 10-13
- circus tent type activities in Victoria get 100-150 per day – age 0-16
- outreach activities attract a broad social range of CYP
- older siblings and grandparents bring children to events
- the building of Victoria Community Centre will mean Arts centre could run more after school clubs

- Blue Moon Theatre Company at Blake School in conjunction with ReCreation was very successful
- Chilton Trinity are very receptive to the Arts Centre
- good links with East Bridgwater Comm. School and some Primary schools
- where no other funding available the revenue grant to Arts Centre pays for CYP activities

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- funding and capacity are biggest problems
- have no education / outreach worker like they do at e.g. Frome
- have to charge for Arts centre activities for YP
- charging means Centre based activities tend to attract more affluent families
- lack of understanding of role of 'Arts' to deliver directly on many agendas, as well as engage CYP
- relevant agendas that involvement in arts can play a role:
  - regeneration
  - education and training
  - health well-being
  - cohesion and community
- District Council's role in laying on event is minimal
- toilets in parks are often unavailable – locked

#### **Barnardo's / Somerset Play Forum / Children's Fund Surgery**

#### Good points:

- due to Barnardo's and Somerset Play Forum play is 'back on the map' after huge cuts in funding in Somerset a few years ago
- Somerset Play Forum has made links that did not exist before
- Children's Trust has agreed a play policy in the CYP strategic plan
- Scrap Store is a good resource
- Local Area Agreement may yet deliver more funding for play
- group who arranges 'Play Day' is a positive for Sedgemoor
- Forest School is an excellent project, but is more educational than play focused

#### Problems and areas for improvement:

- Fears associated with Health and Safety and vandalism have led to the widespread creation of sterile indestructible play areas – monstrosities that are not used
- lots of money that is spent on play areas does nothing to enhance their play value
- there is lack of innovation in the facilitation of play in non-designated play area
- there is little thought about how to encourage play in peoples communities
- the message to CYP, from adults, about their place in the public realm is very confusing – they want them away from the TV and Playstations, but not playing outside near their homes
  
- designated play spaces in Sedgemoor are awful
  
- there is no clear idea of how play areas across the Districts and County should be strategically developed
- there are few examples of best practice in play in Somerset
- **significant** cuts to play funding by County Council in recent years
- no strategic Play Officer at County
- Barnardo's strategic role will be lost in 2008 unless funding comes from, for example, the County CYP Service
- sport **currently** dominated over play in Somerset
- play has not been a priority for many years
- the poor communication between different tiers of local government has been particularly detrimental to services like play
- Districts are not informed about changes in CYP service at County level and implications of moves towards Locality working

#### What project might help:

- Play Rangers
- Project to change adult's perception of CYP and the spaces they play in
- A destination adventure play centre – to raise perceptions of what is possible

#### **Bay Centre Focus Group**

Only 2 youngsters (girls – both aged 10) were available, but they were still given an opportunity to give their views.

#### £10 'ice-breaker'

A crisp £10 note was passed around and the YP had to say what their name was and what they would do with the £10 to 'have the most fun they could have'. The responses were:

- clothes
- clothes and 'girly stuff'

Good points:

- dancing classes
- Carousel Club at Bay Centre
- Playing on computers
- like Apex Park – especially views and natural landscape
- like playing at skate park – without bikes, skates etc
- like going swimming
- play at each others houses a lot
- enjoy playing on local greenspaces
- enjoy after-school clubs e.g. signing, German, dancing

Problems and areas for improvement:

- have to pay for bay Centre activities
- dislike vandalism and graffiti at parks
- would not feel safe to go to skate park alone
- when stuff at park gets broken, takes ages to get repaired
- main roads too dangerous to cycle on
- Apex Park gets too muddy to play on

What would you spend some money on to improve play opportunities:

- more exciting parks
- trampolines
- more green areas (with landscaping) to play on

**Youth and Community Workers Focus Group (based in Burnham area)**

£10 'ice-breaker'



A crisp £10 note was passed around and each person had to say what their name was and what they would do with the £10 to 'have the most fun they could have'. The responses were:

- pub (x2)
- horse riding
- crafts resources for bay Centre !

Good points:

- Youth Club at Moorlands hall – set up by Police
- Skate Park
- YP are very responsive to detached youth workers who go to where they are hang out - with sporting equipment
- Summer Challenge is superb
- Joe Rogers (Youth Service) is superb

Problems and areas for improvement:

- Groups have to be charged to use bay Centre – so YP activities are not free
- Bay Centre not used to anywhere near it's capacity
- BC is dated and no ton tune with what YP want
- BC is seen as where 'snobby kids' go
- a space specifically for YP would be better than trying to adapt BC
- older kids (drinking) puts off younger ones form using parks
- lots of NIMBYISM in relation to YP and their need for somewhere to go
- Police's only response it to put on Dispersal Orders
- no Youth Shelter – so end up at bus shelters
- often moved on by Police
- Dispersal Orders result in further restrictions on YP movements – by parents
- Skate park not used in winter
- there is nowhere like a Youth Café to go
- YP have different groups that don't mix e.g Apex, Manor Gardens and Sea Front groups
- YP are unfairly blamed for all damage
- ridiculous £500 fine for riding bike at sea front
- Youth Council are influential, but not representative of YP with greatest needs
- Councils are not YP focused

- youth provision is not needs lead
- not enough work to support YP and families in valuing time devoted to play

What would you spend some money on to improve play opportunities:

- mobile resource unit – take opportunities to where YP gather with e.g. Playstations, sports gear – as well information and advice

## **Park and Open Spaces Surgery**

Good points:

- under 12s are quite well catered for in relation to play areas
- skate park at Highbridge is good
- vandalism is only occasional
- efforts are being made to get greater YP ownership of e.g. skate park
- aiming for Green Flag status raises aspirations of Councillors, of what a park can offer
- play equipment manufacturers are starting to provide more exciting opportunities that Councils feel they could install
- there are some links with play providers – via events in parks
- adaptation of Local Plan has led to improvement in play requirement of developers e.g. 20 square metres of open space per dwelling or £773 off-site if less than 15 dwellings
- there is £400K available from 'RT2' pot for outdoor play
- some Parishes (e.g. Wedmore) make good use of their RT2 money
- Parishes are important providers of play facilities

Problems and areas for improvement:

- there is a lack of staff dedicated to play
- there is a low budget available for play equipment upgrade
- there is no long term capital investment plan
- a limited amount of equipment dates from the 1970s
- less than £12,000 children's play budget
- the Parks department do not play a role in promoting play
- risk assessment protect the Councils interests, but does not benefit play value

- no supervised / outdoor play opportunities
- do not have resources to, for example, buy in Forest School resources
- have no knowledge of park usage
- no park user surveys
  
- toilets are not open at all times
- families can be put off play areas by older kids
- missed out on Green Flag at Apex – due to lack of events and dedicated park staff
  
- overly prescriptive NPFA Standards are still used and are overly prescriptive
- RT2 money is not much when divided between Parishes
- some Parishes are not pro-active about spending outdoor play cash
- problems with public understanding of maintenance issues associated with ownership
- new development at North Petherton – no enthusiasm for community use of new school facilities

What project might help:

- skate park in Bridgwater
- Apex Park upgrade
- Improvements at Hmp's Mansfield Park

Consultations on a skate park for Bridgwater were highlighted by the Parks service, these can be seen in Appendix 2.

**Parish and Town Council Workshop**

All Parish and Town Councils were invited to a workshop to ask questions about the Play Strategy – they also received surveys to make their views known. The projects they are interested in proposing are detailed elsewhere. Details of an 'ice-breaker' exercise are included as it is revealing of how the world has changed for YP

Where did you play when you were younger – 'ice-breaker':

- in the woods, by a pond
- cycled up to the 'Downs' in Bristol
- on the 'dumps'
- tree houses

- in the river
- roller skating on streets
- ice-skating on ponds
- climbed trees
- on farm
- on street
- in fields
- made dens
- went fishing

## **Play Partnerships**

### **1<sup>st</sup> ‘Shadow’ Play Partnership**

The first group of 13-16 year old YP were met at the YMCA in Bridgwater. They were given 2 exercises that aimed to get their view on ‘play’ and how they might spend the Sedgemoor Big Lottery allocation.

#### 1. £10 ‘ice-breaker’

A crisp £10 note was passed around and the YP had to say what their name was and what they would do with the £10 to ‘have the most fun they could have’. The responses were:

- go to MacDonalds (x2)
- got to KFC (x2)
- buy some Smarties
- take a train to Taunton for skate park
- take a train to Bristol for skate park
- buy clothes (x3)
- haircut

When asked why fast food restaurants were popular the YP said it was because it was somewhere warm they could meet up to chat with friends and plan what other activities they were going to do.

#### 2. £230,000 to spend

The idea that we were asking YP how they think Sedgemoor should spend it's £230K was explained. They then split into 4 groups and each group was given 25% of pretend money that added up to the full £230K.

They were asked how they would allocate the money, bearing in mind that it was to be spent on 'free' play opportunities for the age group 0-19. They were given 7 options, including 'Other'.

Group	Traditional Play Area (Swings, slides etc)	Multi-use Games Area	Wheeled Sport provision (outdoors)	Sports / Crafts activities	Places to meet friends	Youth Workers	Other (say what)
1	10000	0	40000	0	10000		
2	6000	5000	10000	2000	12000	10000	13000 (bowling clubs, fun parks, football pitches)
3	0	0	35000				24000 (nightclub, bowling)
4	0	0	52000	0	0	0	1000 (massive bouncy castle)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,000</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£137,000</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£22,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£38,000</b>

When asked about their choices the YP were keen on a skate park, not just because it is place to do wheeled sports, but also because it would a place they could meet up and hang-out.

Some of the YP were keen to know if this money really existed and whether it was 'really going to happen?' They were assured that the money was there to be claimed if good plans could be submitted to the Lottery.

The group confirmed they would be pleased to give their view at further meetings on the findings of the consultation and proposed projects.

Finally, 10 disposable cameras were given out as part of a competition to take the best photo of good and bad places they hang-out or play.

### First Play Partnership Meeting Workshop

A workshop session was held at the first Play Partnership meeting to identify examples that the group felt would illustrate:

- Examples of strong points in the current approach to and provision of play opportunities in Sedgemoor
- Examples of weaknesses in the current approach to and provision of play opportunities in Sedgemoor

The group were also asked to suggest any ‘quick wins’ they could identify: ie something that would be relatively easy to invest in and would make a positive impact on provision for play in the district.

The points raised are listed below. Being listed here doesn’t necessarily imply that the whole group agrees with every point: this list is intended to be a summary of the points raised.

#### Good things about approaches to play provision in Sedgemoor:

- Victoria Park Arts Project: organised in the Summer by Bridgwater Arts Centre. Successfully attracts people who would not come in to the Arts Centre to participate in the arts activities offered there.
- Some good holiday play schemes – scattered throughout the district. Further information available from Somerset County Council Parent’s information service.
- National Play Day event – organised in partnership by the Early Years Service, SDC and Scrapstore. Contact: Rosie Pike and Julie Gibbons.
- Forest Schools for children from 3 yrs up. Organised by Bridgwater College Blackmoor Hills Education centre
- Scrapstore in Bridgwater which provides resources for other projects as well as running an outreach service itself (a bus).
- The environment offers a good play resource including green corridors, the Quantocks and Mendips and the coast and canals.
- There is a good investment in the fixed play facilities by SDC.
- The Youth Inclusion Support Project run by the Young Offenders Team.
- Somerset PCT organise an award scheme via schools called Respect.
- There is a good level of partnership between organisations.
- The area is strong in performing arts with many local drama groups and carnival clubs.
- The Summer Challenge – an activity organised jointly by the Youth Service, Police and Connexions and supported with funding from the Safer Sedgemoor Partnership.
- Physical facilities for youth clubs at ReCreation, the Rollercoaster and a centre in Axbridge.
- The Rural Youth Project.
- Swim Active – a recently launched initiative which is funded by Kelloggs and offers subsidised swimming lessons at a pool in Bridgwater. Involves: Sure Start, SDC and children’s centres.
- BMX track at Axbridge.
- Ave it! Outdoor pursuits activities for 13 – 19 yrs organised in partnership by Bridgwater YMCA and SCC Youth Service
- SDC is open to ideas
- Pro-active headmaster at East Bridgwater Community School (Nigel Shipton)

- Sure Start initiatives
- Making Wave – YMCA organised activity for 8 to 19 year olds which is Heritage Lottery funded and offers activities around exploring the history and heritage of the canal.

#### Less good things or weaknesses in the approach to play provision in Sedgemoor:

- There is a lack of co-ordination in the organisation and delivery of the holiday play schemes
- The area doesn't have any play rangers
- There is a lack of co-ordinated or sustained funding for play provision, (and SRB funding is coming to an end)
- People from North or South Sedgemoor do not necessarily feel they belong to the same area: people from Cheddar also don't relate to Bridgwater.
- There are 'no go areas' on some estates in the towns and a lack of social cohesion between some groups on different estates
- There is a lack of free supervised facilities
- There isn't a skate park in Bridgwater – despite demand for one among young people
- The red tape around CRB checks for volunteers causes difficulties
- There is a lack of involvement of young people in decision making about the provision for play.
- Local politics can be a barrier to play provision
- Some play facilities are felt to be boring because health and safety rules have meant that any element of risk (which makes them more exciting) has been removed.
- There can be a culture of blame
- There is particularly limited provision of services for young people (as opposed to children)
- There are problems with NIMBY'ism
- Some existing play facilities are in the wrong location eg MUGA at Puriton.

#### Suggested quick wins:

Some areas suggested by people in the group as possible quick wins included:

- Fund an outreach play service to enable better use of existing facilities
- Add better lighting to sites to extend their use
- Establish a group of 8 – 13 year olds and 14 – 19 year olds to act as Shadow Play Partnerships
- The skate park in Bridgwater
- Add more MUGAs
- Extend provision of forest schools
- Fund some play rangers for the district

- Provide funding for the Play Challenge
- Add some teen shelters
- Provide financial support for the Recreation Youth Centre to enable them to continue their service
- Provide financial support for Scrapstore to enable them to extend their service
- Extend the Victoria Park Arts project to other areas
- Attract funding for play from Local Area Agreements by linking them in with the play strategy.

### Responses to Play Partnerships Strategic Issues ‘Pro-formas’

Partnership member and organisation	Issues would like to see Play Strategy address	Future potential partnership projects with FBC	Projects ideas for BIG Fund Portfolio	Other comments
Rachel Chainey – Somerset Play Forum and Barnardo’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opportunities for informal play (awaiting re-send of copy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Management of Play Rangers</li> <li>○ Future consultation with CYP</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Play Rangers. Barnardo's would be very interested in tendering for the management of any Play Ranger type activity that the Play Partnership may decided to commission</li> <li>2. Project PlayScape an application to the Playful Ideas Lottery fund for just under £250k over 3 and half years to fund a free consultation service to advise any group (typically Schools, Parish, Town, District Councils) planning to build (or renovate) a new play-space. If Project PlayScape is successful (end of May) lots of ways could be linked to work in Sedgemoor.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul>
Charlie Dearden – Bridgwater Arts Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arts and creative play made more accessible to wider range of children</li> <li>○ Lack of free art activities in public spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop rolling arts and creative play project</li> </ul>	Rolling arts and creative play project across district with SDC, play groups, scrapstore, children’s centres and youth service – based in a marquee, with a project co-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential for sometinhg exciting in Sedgemoor</li> <li>○ Need to</li> </ul>



			ordiantor - £65K	think outside box Weston activities as part of BANES, worth looking at
Lyndia Hind – Somerset Rural Youth Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More facilities across the District as more rural areas can be starved of facilities and services</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Puriton skatepark, youth shelter and lighting £32K plus CCTV</li> </ul>	Shadow PP needs YP of all ages, YMCA and SRYP willing to assist
Julie Gibbons –, County Council Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play Rangers in open play spaces</li> <li>More encouragement for children to take risks</li> <li>More challenging play spaces</li> </ul>			
Norma Frood – Bridgwater College Forest School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach – meet demand for Forest School</li> <li>Support for parents – increase understanding through play</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Explore training needs, share good practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further work with Play Partnership and Play Forum to promote provision of ‘risky play’</li> <li>Make us of Forest School co-ordinator and trainer for workshops etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest School Play Ranger Project – trained and qualified Leader and Assistant to be funded providing ‘outreach’ sessions – approx £60K pa</li> </ul>	Willing to help with evaluation of play strategy.
Nicky Parfitt – Bridgwater YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage YP of all ages to have access to facilities they would not normally be able to afford</li> <li>Encourage Yp to be inspired and develop lifelong skills, interact with others in safe and controlled environments</li> <li>Encourage YP to have more respect for their local surroundings</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor pursuit provision in playing field - £10K</li> </ul>	

Dave Baxter – Strategic Housing Manager - SDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriate levels of play facilities and activities to encourage settled, mixed and sustainable communities including families with children, economically active young adults and elderly people</li> </ul>			
John Calvert – Somerset County Youth Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved strategic link between SDC, County Youth Service, extended Schools, Voluntary Sector and commercial provision to ensure effective use of resources allocated for play</li> <li>○ Improved opportunities for YP to move from informal play activities to more formal accredited opportunities</li> <li>○ Improved opportunities for older YP to gain accredited awards which will allow them to volunteer to deliver play and other activities for YP and children</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuation of Summer Challenge - £12K</li> <li>○ MUGAs at Rollercoaster Centre - £30K</li> <li>○ Enhancing Burnham and Axbridge Adventure Clubs - £20K</li> <li>○ Skate Park for Cheddar - £80K</li> </ul>	
Lucy Wilmott/Jane Bailey – Safer Sedgemoor Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Involvement of YP in the strategy consultation</li> <li>○ Schemes that include plan for reduction of crime/ASB from the start</li> <li>○ Schemes to reduce criminal damage</li> </ul>			
Julie Walker – Somerset Learning Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recreational and sports provision for disadvantaged and marginalized YP in the locality</li> <li>○ Hamp, Victoria and Sydenham estates have a need for recreational provision – Play Rangers?</li> <li>○ Enhance and improve sport and play opportunities for YP through SLA schools and their local environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Holiday provision partnership</li> <li>○ Crime reduction partnership</li> <li>○ Sports partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding toward co-ordination of holiday provision in Bridgwater over 3 years - £45K</li> </ul>	
Dion Bunting – Racial Inclusion Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wider inclusion / accessibility (safety) of services provided (ie youth clubs)</li> <li>○ greater focus on cultural understanding with White British majority of users to make BME individuals feel safe and able to use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looking to increase collaboration with youth service</li> <li>○ Continually</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Possible interest in developing Polish / Eastern European group as this a growing population in Sedgemoor</li> <li>2. Diverse Sedgemoor event /</li> </ol>	

	<p>services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o greater promotion of good race relations &amp; cultural understanding.</li> </ul>	<p>looking to further engagement with schools &amp; colleges</p>	<p>fun day, promoting the cultural diversity and historical diversity of Sedgemoor as a means of promoting positive race relations &amp; cultural understanding</p>	
<p>Frances Stuart – Somerset Wildlife Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Access to outdoor play in areas across the District that are rich in wildlife and where children are bale to make most of the play opportunities that arise naturally form the surroundings not purely on opportunities supplied through fixed play equipment</li> <li>o Encourage use of ‘special landscapes’ such as the AONB/local nature reserves right on the doorstep</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Dad’s go wild at Fyne Court – monthly family learning sessions - £4,700 pa</li> <li>o Fyne Court Summer Holiday Activity Clubs - £1,200 pa</li> </ul>	

## 4. Key Issues Emerging from Consultation

### General Issues

1. Play is undervalued in Sedgemoor and needs to be a higher priority for the various organisations, especially local authorities, who provide or could be providers of, play opportunities. There is a lack of staff and financial resources dedicated to play.
2. There are a lot of negative perceptions about young people that are not helped by the media's portrayal of them as 'troublemakers'. Local authorities' initiatives need to be more positive about providing opportunities, rather than dealing with the 'youth' problem.
3. The message to CYP, from adults, about their place in the public realm is very confusing – they want them away from the TV and Playstations, but not playing outside near their homes. There needs to be more reflection on what adults did when they 'played out' when they were young and the reduced freedom available to CYP over recent decades.
4. Young people of all ages still like to spend time playing and hanging out in places that are not designated play areas. Therefore as well as public green spaces the strategy should consider how urban design and planning policies can be influenced to make the wider urban environment more child friendly.
5. Gardens are CYP's most commonly used playspace. The provision of play spaces should be considered when planning new developments especially those in which access to gardens is restricted.
6. Measures to make walking and cycling safer for CYP of all ages in residential areas need to be a priority and particular consideration should be given to traffic-free 'safe routes to play'. Such routes should be accessible to bikes, pedestrians and CYP with mobility problems.
7. There needs to be greater encouragement of and more opportunities for 'risky' and 'wild' play **and more challenging of attitudes to risk.**
8. Both the quality and quantity of teenage provision of play services and facilities is thought to be poor.
9. Fears of bullying and 'stranger danger' are barriers to CYP making more use of, and their parents allowing them to make use of, play opportunities. Younger children and their parents often feel intimidated by older young people who hang out in play areas designed for the younger age groups.
10. Parish and town councils report that provision of play facilities and services are limited across the District and teenage provision, like meeting places and skate parks and youth clubs is most needed. Lack of financial resources and volunteers is the main barrier to improving provision for CYP.

11. There is potential for more community use of school facilities, including the use of facilities by CYP with disabilities at special schools, after school, at weekends and during holidays.
12. There needs to be improved communication and partnership working between the various providers of all kinds of play opportunities **and more support should be offered to voluntary sector organisations of all sizes.**
13. Promotion and publicising of the facilities and services available to CYP, particularly those with disabilities, needs to be improved, kept up to date, online and in print, and better co-ordinated between providers.

### Play Spaces and Outdoor Youth Facilities

1. The usefulness of a play area is highly dependent on location, proximity being of particular importance to younger children. It is important that younger children have access to some kind of local play space within 5 minutes walking distance from home.
2. Teenagers should have access to spaces to hang out independently with friends within 10 minutes walk from home, although many would be willing to walk further for something more challenging, interesting and suitable for their age group.
3. CYP, **the wider community and play providers** want CYP to have their say on improving building new and existing playspaces **and a key role in assessing the 'play-value' of existing and new provision.**
4. As use of play spaces is reduced due to fears of stranger danger and bullying, security issues will be important in terms of future planning, it is thought that more supervision in public open spaces and more separate facilities for older children would help
5. CYP need more places where they are allowed to meet up with friends, more wheeled sport facilities, more opportunities for wild play and safe cycle paths that have places to play and hang out.
6. Consideration needs to be given to providing new and improving existing traditional equipped playgrounds for under 6s, as well as landscaped spaces that offer opportunities for wild play and ball games.
7. Parents are reluctant to allow under 11s to travel unaccompanied to unsupervised play spaces due to danger from traffic, because such spaces are too far away and fears about 'stranger danger' and intimidation by 'older' children.
8. Balancing health and safety concerns and vulnerability to vandalism against play value of play areas has in the past resulted in the creation of facilities that are under used, but more recently equipped areas have proved to be more popular.

9. Maintenance of parks and dog control need to be better.
10. Lighting is needed for outdoor youth facilities. CCTV is popular with CYP and wider community.

### **Play Services**

1. Supervised play services and particularly after-school clubs and sport and arts activities are popular with all ages and those CYP who attend are such sessions are generally happy with the quality of them.
2. The main reason for non-attendance at play services is that CYP 'prefer to do other things', although the activities being too far away is a problem for some especially in many rural areas.
3. CYP and the wider community think that there need to be more play services. There is demand for more youth and after school clubs as well as sports and arts activities.
4. Outreach and detached youth work are ways of bringing play opportunities to where young people are, but they need to be consistent and frequent, to give a chance for relationships, respect and mutual trust to grow.
5. Youth and play services need to operate in the evenings and at weekends and during school holidays.
6. There should be better co-ordination between the various providers of youth services, especially the County Youth Service, particularly in providing positive responses to the Police and Community Safety services intelligence on anti-social behaviour hot spots.
7. Dispersal Orders are not useful if used in isolation and should aim to avoid coverage of spaces allocated to CYP, such as youth shelters and MUGAs.
8. Venues located in more deprived areas, like the Rollercoaster and ReCreation, are very important to local CYP and the wider community, but they are not open and available enough, largely because of financial resources.
9. There is a lack of volunteers and the bureaucratic hurdles they currently face, for example around health and safety and for example CRB checks, do not help this.

### **Inclusive Play**

1. Provision for outdoor play **and awareness and understanding of the needs of children and families** with disabilities is thought to be poor in the District.
2. More supervision of open access play would mean fewer minority ethnic CYP and CYP with disabilities would be deterred from accessing such opportunities.
3. Disability - need for a mix of greater inclusivity in all schemes; and special provision at the request/preference of the CYP
- 4.
5. Need to do more appropriate consultation with CYP with disabilities (and their families), in care and from BME families to identify issues from their perspective.
6. Potential for specialist indoor/outdoor play area specifically designed for use by children with various disabilities.
7. There needs to be more community use of special schools.
8. Lack of accessible transport prevents children with disabilities from accessing schemes.
9. Black and minority ethnic CYP and families across the district tend to be isolated and 'too scared to go out'. BME CYP often do not access services and facilities because of racial bullying or the fear of it.
10. Play can have an important and positive role in promoting community cohesion.
11. Many providers of services need to improve how they deal with issues faced by BME CYP and CYP with disabilities and should develop partnerships with organisations with expertise in issues around inclusion.
12. Need for greater understanding of cultural and ethnic diversity – informal education for children and young people.

**See separate document for Appendices**

**Table PP1 Parish Profile: People**

Variables	All people	Males	Females	People living in households	People living in communal establishments	People aged 0-4	People aged 5 - 15	People aged 16 - 24	People aged 25 - 44
Area									
Ashcott	1248	645	603	1186	62	54	179	120	258
Axbridge	2025	976	1049	1959	66	122	333	180	567
Badgworth	452	217	235	452	0	13	65	32	86
Bawdrip	485	248	237	474	11	23	73	35	107
Berrow	1638	816	822	1616	22	56	183	151	340
Brean	691	351	340	590	101	13	58	102	140
Brent Knoll	1252	602	650	1183	69	53	145	100	303
Bridgwater Without	400	209	191	398	3	13	60	29	95
Broomfield	208	100	108	208	0	11	35	14	53
Burnham Without	798	386	412	798	0	54	102	54	230
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge	18401	8701	9700	17919	482	914	2269	1514	4229
Burtle	402	218	184	354	48	20	89	22	99
Cannington	2381	1231	1150	2135	246	99	418	250	554
Catcott	502	233	269	488	14	17	74	35	98
Chapel Allerton	348	162	186	348	0	14	50	24	72
Cheddar	5093	2430	2663	5038	55	255	664	439	1268
Chedzoy	429	212	217	429	0	26	77	44	118
Chilton Polden	668	319	349	668	0	24	95	34	136
Chilton Trinity	209	108	101	209	0	9	16	22	60
Compton Bishop	581	291	290	574	7	27	78	35	147
Cossington	552	274	278	552	0	31	68	38	130
Durleigh	556	262	294	556	0	16	56	45	99
East Brent	1298	643	655	1283	15	79	228	96	331
East Huntspill	1152	577	575	1152	0	78	154	103	330
Edington	337	159	178	337	0	8	45	19	59
Enmore	233	109	124	233	0	13	24	14	49
Fiddington	236	121	115	234	3	8	24	20	47
Goathurst	235	119	116	235	0	10	32	21	49
Greinton	79	41	38	79	0	9	10	7	22
Lympsham	864	425	439	847	17	44	123	79	205



Lyng	324	168	156	324	0	14	38	25	87
Mark	1394	728	666	1306	88	73	247	114	320
Middlezoy	723	351	372	723	0	49	106	55	174
Moorlinch	252	131	121	252	0	13	33	19	62
Nether Stowey	1313	613	700	1313	0	52	164	100	288
North Petherton	5065	2531	2534	5057	8	233	670	391	1303
Othery	575	274	301	574	3	35	78	40	132
Otterhampton	873	423	450	871	3	64	115	75	221
Over Stowey	357	168	189	357	0	19	55	16	89
Pawlett	1066	542	524	1066	0	49	113	83	290
Puriton	2033	983	1050	2027	6	115	289	170	512
Shapwick	509	272	237	455	54	23	99	55	120
Shipham	1022	514	508	1004	18	37	117	74	213
Spaxton	1021	496	525	1019	3	50	167	73	224
Stawell	365	184	181	365	0	14	57	24	99
Stockland Bristol	134	64	70	134	0	4	19	9	28
Thurloxton	169	76	93	169	0	4	29	16	51
Weare	654	332	322	654	0	37	99	57	134
Wedmore	3145	1559	1586	3112	33	140	493	249	673
Wembdon	1812	903	909	1774	38	55	268	156	379
West Huntspill	1412	690	722	1398	14	73	156	115	319
Westonzoyland	1832	903	929	1823	9	127	279	151	508
Woolavington	2163	1038	1125	2163	0	132	309	155	585

Variables	People aged 45 - 64	People aged 65 - 74	People aged 75+	Mean age of population	Median age of population	All people aged 16+ in households	All people aged 16+ in households Living in couple	All people aged 16+ in households single	All people aged 16+ Married
Area									
Ashcott	366	156	115	42.81	45	972	662	229	621
Axbridge	510	152	161	38.69	39	1504	942	396	848
Badgworth	182	41	33	44.32	49	374	282	63	266
Bawdrip	170	47	30	41.83	45	385	276	84	255
Berrow	510	214	184	45.59	48	1377	950	293	850
Brean	212	102	64	46.51	49	519	370	171	352
Brent Knoll	393	141	117	43.85	46	985	716	233	689
Bridgwater Without	136	48	19	43.07	45	327	250	62	228
Broomfield	65	15	15	40.14	43	162	108	33	104
Burnham Without	222	89	47	40.38	40	642	466	138	405
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge	4616	2239	2620	44.79	46	14736	9478	3317	8561
Burtle	127	25	20	36.26	39	288	212	54	204
Cannington	582	264	214	40.47	40	1731	1168	464	1065
Catcott	165	51	62	45.12	48	397	290	68	274
Chapel Allerton	124	40	24	44.47	48	284	224	41	215
Cheddar	1381	522	564	42.81	43	4119	2740	914	2499
Chedzoy	108	33	23	36.91	38	326	228	71	210
Chilton Polden	209	100	70	45.35	48	549	404	86	381
Chilton Trinity	80	14	8	41.33	44	184	114	48	108
Compton Bishop	198	62	34	42.64	45	469	362	86	339
Cossington	159	69	57	43.12	45	453	338	81	318
Durleigh	191	86	63	46.75	51	484	346	85	331
East Brent	384	109	71	38.77	40	988	730	186	661
East Huntspill	348	82	57	38.49	39	920	672	205	570
Edington	133	42	31	45.93	51	284	218	32	210
Enmore	84	18	31	45.66	50	196	136	31	126
Fiddington	94	28	15	45.78	51	203	144	37	136
Goathurst	84	22	17	42.16	45	193	140	36	130
Greinton	24	5	0	28.78	32	60	46	14	38
Lympsham	268	75	70	41.21	43	680	516	136	465
Lyng	110	32	18	41.99	44	272	188	55	175

Mark	374	140	126	40.69	42	1039	752	205	709
Middlezoy	186	87	66	41.25	42	568	392	106	370
Moorlinch	94	17	14	41.09	45	206	152	48	130
Nether Stowey	360	168	181	45.74	47	1097	706	231	640
North Petherton	1494	552	422	42.28	44	4154	2922	826	2674
Othery	205	50	35	41.53	44.5	462	322	89	302
Otterhampton	273	66	59	39.95	42	692	510	132	468
Over Stowey	123	31	24	42.91	45	283	202	55	182
Pawlett	308	138	85	43.46	45	904	670	193	589
Puriton	582	186	179	40.97	43	1623	1148	312	1073
Shapwick	140	42	30	38.25	39	363	256	89	244
Shipham	357	121	103	45.68	49	850	610	148	586
Spaxton	325	101	81	41.52	44	802	548	176	500
Stawell	122	22	27	39.88	42.5	294	226	53	203
Stockland Bristol	48	11	15	45.23	48	111	80	19	80
Thurloxton	48	4	17	40.18	40	136	90	35	76
Weare	225	65	37	40.79	45	518	386	98	364
Wedmore	985	306	299	42.45	45	2479	1730	483	1662
Wembdon	560	216	178	43.89	46	1451	1054	273	1002
West Huntspill	454	151	144	44.25	47	1172	812	231	747
Westonzoyland	513	153	101	38.64	39	1417	1016	300	913
Woolavington	573	219	190	40.8	41	1722	1190	352	1059

Variables	All people aged 16+ Divorced or widowed	All people with limiting long term illness	All people health good	All people providing unpaid care
Area				
Ashcott	165	197	894	127
Axbridge	326	358	1421	179
Badgworth	45	79	322	48
Bawdrip	50	80	338	65
Berrow	256	399	1048	188
Brean	97	160	406	89
Brent Knoll	132	265	892	154
Bridgwater Without	37	75	255	41
Broomfield	25	28	163	23
Burnham Without	99	131	557	82
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge	3340	4540	11411	2019
Burtle	35	59	291	37
Cannington	335	424	1607	301
Catcott	69	94	352	62
Chapel Allerton	28	45	262	39
Cheddar	761	896	3560	512
Chedzoy	45	59	314	42
Chilton Polden	82	127	454	93
Chilton Trinity	28	38	139	19
Compton Bishop	51	79	448	64
Cossington	54	92	380	63
Durleigh	68	103	358	92
East Brent	144	184	933	138
East Huntspill	145	196	791	126
Edington	42	70	238	61
Enmore	39	31	168	26
Fiddington	31	47	170	38
Goathurst	27	31	186	20
Greinton	8	10	56	3
Lympsham	96	138	584	86
Lyng	42	42	224	36

Mark	160	213	995	153
Middlezoy	92	131	503	86
Moorlinch	28	43	184	38
Nether Stowey	226	278	857	153
North Petherton	662	867	3434	513
Othery	71	91	399	68
Otterhampton	94	128	654	84
Over Stowey	46	56	264	35
Pawlett	122	200	701	114
Puriton	244	311	1418	241
Shapwick	54	82	370	52
Shipham	134	165	741	130
Spaxton	128	162	745	110
Stawell	38	48	264	35
Stockland Bristol	12	20	92	23
Thurloxton	25	24	133	23
Weare	56	88	500	91
Wedmore	367	458	2331	328
Wembdon	214	319	1279	215
West Huntspill	205	324	903	168
Westonzoyland	213	280	1317	208
Woolavington	311	416	1428	237

**Note:** No figures at Parish level available for Bridgwater.  
Use Town Profile for information however need to take into account that figure will include adjoining settlements, i.e Durleigh and Wembdon

APPENDIX DC - 8b: SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL CHILD HSNAG DEPRIVATION MEASURE SHOWING WapD VALUES FOR EACH VARIABLE IN THE MEASURE

Highlighted cells are those with values in the worst 5 within the District Council

rank CHILD SCORE	rank CHILD SCORE (FULL)	CHILD SCORE - DC	CHILD SCORE - DC (FULL)	name	benefits		crime		demography		deprivation				education		housing	social services	
					Children 0-19 in families on Income Support as % of pop 0-19	domestic violence incidents in families per 1000 households	Youth Justice referrals per 1000 pop 10-17	% of HRP's in MS-Sec group 6 or 7	hospital teenage births per 1000 females aged 15-17	DD1: % Lone Parent HHs	DD2: % No Heat	DD3: % Rented	DD4: % Inadequate space	DD5: % No Car	DD6: % No Earnings	Number of fixed residences per 1000 pupils	total SEN pupils per 1000 total pupils	Housing association / council housing as % of households in 2001	Referrals to SS aged 0-17 per 1000 pop 0-17
1	2	14	35	Bridgwater Sydenham	25.2	20.1	48.9	35.1	31.5	7.9	12.1	53.4	9.8	25.7	25.8	139.3	239.1	33.5	67.7
1	3	14	50	Bridgwater Victoria	24.7	17.6	82.7	31.3	26.0	8.3	7.3	50.3	8.1	26.2	28.7	80.1	230.9	24.8	45.4
3	4	13	33	Bridgwater Hamp	25.4	22.8	116.3	32.7	15.6	10.2	9.7	45.7	8.6	23.4	31.9	178.4	249.9	27.5	72.4
4	4	12	69	Higholodge	19.9	14.3	46.0	29.6	25.9	6.7	14.0	35.9	9.5	17.7	21.4	93.7	137.1	23.4	38.9
5	5	9	79	Bridgwater Eastover	13.8	15.3	55.6	31.8	25.6	8.0	10.6	25.3	6.0	20.3	17.0	42.9	180.5	9.0	37.3
6	6	3	124	Bridgwater Bower	11.5	13.2	35.0	25.1	20.9	7.2	14.0	21.9	4.1	10.3	12.8	38.8	155.1	6.4	24.1
6	7	3	134	Woolavington	17.1	8.6	18.8	22.1	-	6.0	6.6	33.6	4.6	10.8	22.0	70.7	142.1	17.6	20.4
8	11	2	192	Puriton	7.0	8.5	41.3	20.7	-	3.7	8.8	12.9	7.1	3.7	8.7	70.5	177.4	5.0	8.7
9	9	1	167	Berrow	9.6	11.4	20.5	18.5	-	3.7	8.2	23.2	4.8	4.3	9.7	70.7	113.9	4.3	30.8
9	10	1	187	Huntspill and Pawlett	8.3	6.0	57.5	20.4	-	3.8	8.0	20.8	1.8	4.3	11.3	26.4	126.8	8.7	24.0
9	12	1	207	Bridgwater Quantock	6.2	6.1	21.5	18.3	9.5	3.1	4.8	14.9	2.9	6.1	8.2	32.7	129.8	15.1	21.3
9	17	1	249	East Poldens	3.5	-	13.5	16.1	-	3.8	10.0	18.8	5.0	2.5	8.7	-	136.5	7.8	-
9	21	1	275	Gandford	1.1	3.6	57.0	14.0	-	2.2	5.9	10.5	4.1	-	5.0	39.7	98.9	2.8	22.1
14	8	0	147	Burnham South	9.5	8.6	40.7	21.5	19.4	5.3	7.9	21.1	3.5	9.8	13.7	49.9	130.6	5.7	26.0
14	13	0	213	Cannington and Quantocks	5.7	7.0	11.8	15.5	-	3.9	7.0	21.3	5.5	3.4	9.7	14.2	105.7	8.9	10.7
14	14	0	218	King's Isle	4.8	4.6	55.4	16.8	-	3.1	6.5	13.9	4.9	1.8	8.4	42.0	143.9	6.7	10.4
14	15	0	233	Axbridge	5.4	6.1	-	15.3	-	6.3	4.0	21.9	2.2	2.6	10.2	16.0	91.4	14.1	11.5
14	16	0	236	North Petherton	4.9	3.0	38.2	16.8	-	3.1	6.5	18.0	3.3	2.6	7.5	52.8	80.9	9.2	18.9
14	18	0	255	Cheddar and Glastonbury	3.7	4.2	19.8	14.0	9.2	4.5	3.6	15.0	3.2	3.3	6.8	19.7	93.6	8.2	13.9
14	19	0	271	Burnham North	4.6	3.2	23.1	16.4	10.7	2.6	2.8	14.6	2.4	3.6	8.0	37.6	97.5	4.0	4.1
14	20	0	272	Knoll	4.6	-	40.2	12.6	-	4.0	2.6	9.7	1.3	3.1	9.7	19.3	119.1	2.3	7.6
14	22	0	284	Brent North	4.4	-	-	15.3	-	2.7	7.8	17.2	5.6	-	7.5	13.3	97.6	7.2	-
14	23	0	297	West Poldens	5.4	-	-	9.6	-	2.8	6.5	13.7	2.3	1.1	8.8	-	88.1	5.0	7.7
14	24	0	307	Wedmore and Mark	3.4	4.0	-	10.6	-	3.3	4.6	13.9	5.8	1.1	6.3	12.7	71.5	5.7	4.6
14	25	0	344	Axe Vale	2.1	-	-	4.9	-	2.3	4.8	7.5	-	1.3	6.1	-	95.7	2.4	-
SEDGEMOOR DC					11.3	9.1	39.8	21.5	12.9	5.2	7.9	25.1	5.1	9.8	14.4	58.5	143.3	12.5	26.9
SOMERSET COUNTY					9.4	5.7	30.2	19.9	13.4	5.1	7.1	27.7	5.4	8.2	12.2	46.9	132.7	13.8	25.9
MINIMUM SEDGEMOOR					1.1	0.0	3.5	4.9	0.0	2.2	2.6	7.5	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	71.5	2.3	0.0
LOWER QUARTILE SEDGEMOOR					4.6	3.2	13.5	15.3	5.0	3.1	4.8	13.9	2.9	2.5	8.0	16.0	97.6	5.0	7.7
MEDIAN SEDGEMOOR					5.7	6.1	35.0	16.8	7.3	3.8	6.6	18.0	4.6	3.6	9.7	38.8	126.8	7.8	18.9
UPPER QUARTILE SEDGEMOOR					11.5	11.4	48.9	22.1	19.4	6.3	8.2	23.2	5.8	10.3	13.7	70.5	143.9	14.1	26.0
MAXIMUM SEDGEMOOR					25.4	22.8	116.3	35.1	31.5	10.2	14.0	53.4	9.5	26.2	31.8	178.4	249.9	33.6	72.4
MINIMUM SOMERSET					0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	2.0	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	51.6	1.1	0.0
LOWER QUARTILE SOMERSET					4.6	2.0	9.6	13.4	3.1	3.3	4.3	19.0	3.4	2.5	7.5	19.2	96.4	7.1	9.4
MEDIAN SOMERSET					6.6	3.7	18.9	16.9	7.8	4.1	6.5	24.4	4.7	4.3	10.0	34.4	121.9	11.2	18.8
UPPER QUARTILE SOMERSET					10.9	6.1	38.2	22.4	17.6	5.6	8.8	33.6	6.6	9.8	13.9	53.2	152.2	16.8	30.0
MAXIMUM SOMERSET					25.7	25.5	116.3	35.1	57.6	12.0	35.1	81.9	11.3	30.2	31.8	178.4	249.8	39.0	82.0

**Appendix 7**

**County Youth Service activity**

<b>Club/Org</b>	<b>Add.1</b>	<b>Add 2</b>	<b>Add 3</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Register Free/Paid</b>
<b>Sedgemoor Area Hub Youth Service</b>	Rollercoaster Youth Hub Victoria Arts Centre	Parkway		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 4RL	01278 422976	
<b>GadAbouts</b>	Bridgwater Arts Centre			Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 3DD	01278 787142	
<b>Noise Limit</b>	Bridgwater Arts Centre			Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 3DD	01278 787142	
<b>Summer Passport</b>	Rollercoaster Youth Hub	Parkway		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 4RL	01823 355552	
<b>Somerset Rural Youth Project</b>	Unit 2 Suprema Estate	Edington		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA7 9LF	01278 722100	
<b>Young Somerset</b>	The Old School	School Rd		Westonzo	Somerset	TA7 0LN	01278 433 187	
<b>Bridgwater YMCA Making Waves Project</b>	George Williams House	Friarn Avenue		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 3RF	01278 422511	
<b>Chapel Allerton Youth Club</b>	Old School Room	Stone Allerton	Chapel Allerton	Axbridge	SOMERSET	BS26	01934 710261	
<b>Brent Knoll Youth Club</b>	Methodist Church		Brent Knoll	Highbridge	SOMERSET	TA9 4EQ		
<b>Lympsham Youth Club</b>	The Pavilion	Rectory Way,		Lympsham	SOMERSET	BS24 0EW	01934750865	
<b>Berrow Youth Club</b>	Berrow Village Hall	Parsonage Rd,	Berrow,	Burnham-On-Sea,		TA8 2NL	01278 793124	
<b>Woolavington Youth Club</b>	Woolavington Village Hall	Tor View		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA7 8EX	01278 683 267	
<b>East Huntspill Youth Club</b>	Church Hall							
<b>Ashcott Rural Youth Club</b>	50 Bath Road,	Ashcott,		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA7 9QQ		
<b>Crusaders Youth Group</b>	Holy Cross Church	East Reach,		Taunton,	Somerset	TA1 3HN	01823 698727	
<b>Thirst Youth Group</b>	Bridgwater Community Church	11-13 Eastover,		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 5AG	01278 445996	
<b>GrapeJuice</b>	St Francis Church	Saxon Green,		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 4JA	01279 445996	
<b>SMILE</b>	George Williams House	Friarn Avenue		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 3RF	01278 422511	
<b>MAISY</b>	George Williams House	Friarn Avenue		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 3RF	01279 422511	
<b>Road Runners and Impact</b>	The Engine Room	52 High Street		Bridgwater	Somerset	TA6 3BL	01278 433187	
<b>Re Creation</b>	Hamp Avenue			Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 6JB	01278 410834	

Appendix 7

Out of School Clubs

Club/Org	Add.1	Add 2	Add 3	Town	County	Postcode	Phone	Registered	Free/Paid
<b>Re Creation</b>	Rhode Lane	Bridgwater			SOMERSET	TA6 6JB	01278 410834		
<b>Southleight</b>	11 Rectory Road,			BURNHAM-OI	SOMERSET	TA8 2BY	01278 783999		
<b>Butterfiles@Express Park</b>	The Exchange Express Park,	Bristol Road		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 4RN	01278 446699		
<b>Cheeky Chimps Playgroup</b>	Ashcott CP School Ridgeway,		Ashcott	Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA7 9PP	01458 210000		
<b>Berrow After School Club</b>	The Church Room	St Marys Church		Berrow	SOMERSET	TA8 1LL	01934 750706		
<b>Woolavington Community</b>									
<b>Primary</b>	Higher Rd,	Woolavington,		Bridgwater,	SOMERSET	TA7 8DY	01278 683 267		
<b>The Cosy Club</b>	Cossington School	Middle RD	Cossingt	Bridgwater,	SOMERSET	TA7 8LH	01278 722486		
<b>Hunny Bears Day Nursery</b>	3 Riverton Road	Puriton		Bridgwater,	SOMERSET	TA7 8BW			
<b>Middlezoy Out of School</b>	Church Rd	Middlezoy		Bridgwater,	SOMERSET	TA7 0NZ	0182369 8465		
<b>Spaxton SOS Club</b>	Spaxton C of E Primary School	High St	Spaxton	Bridgwater,	SOMERSET	TA5 1BS	0127867 1409		
<b>Fyne Court Watch Group</b>	Somerset Wildlife Trust,	Fyne Court	Broomfie	Bridgwater	Somerset	TA5 2EQ	01823 652400		
<b>Otters Den</b>	Otterhampton Primary School	School Lane	Combwich	Bridgwater	Somerset	TA5 2QS	01278 652 248		
<b>North Newton Out of School</b>	North Newton CP School	Church Rd	North Ne	Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA7 0BG			
<b>The Willows Children's Centre</b>							01278 429273		
	Family Centre	Rhode Lane		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 6JB			
<b>PALS</b>	Woolavington Village School	Higher Rd	Woolavin	Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA7 8EA	01278 683267		
<b>PepperHill Forest School</b>	Pepperhill Farm	Over Stowey		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA5 1HL	01278 671108		
<b>Hamp After School Club</b>	Hamp Junior School	Rhode Lane		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 6JB	01278 424 600		
<b>Nether Stowey Wrap Around Ca</b>	Nether Stowey CofE Primary	Mill Close	Nether S	Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA5 1NX	01278 732508		
<b>Westover Green Maple Club</b>	Westover Green CP School	Westover Green		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 7HB	01278 422943		
<b>Whizz Kids</b>	St Johns and St Francis Primary Sc	Weston Zoyland		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 5BP	07731 396178		
<b>Razzmatazz After School</b>	Sedgemoor Manor Community Jr S	Parkway		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 4QX	01278 424725		
<b>Breakfast Club</b>	Sydenham Family Centre	Fairfax Rd		Bridgwater	SOMERSET	TA6 4QX	01278 424725		
<b>Surfers Out of School</b>	Burnham Area Youth Club	Cassis Close		Burnham On Sea		TA8 1NN	01278 782400		





## **Appendix 9 - Performance Indicators - Play**

### **Indicator 1 - Participation.**

- Description - The percentage of children and young people aged birth to 16 from all social and ethnic groups, including those who are disabled, who play out for at least four hours each week.
- Method of Generation - School and Household Survey

### **Indicator 2 - Access to a variety of facilities and spaces**

- Description - The percentage of children and young people aged birth to 16 that have access to a dedicated place for play and informal recreation, which is within appropriate walking or cycling distance
- Method of Generation – The open space and play strategy audit. GIS mapping

### **Indicator 3 - Quality of play spaces**

- Description - The proportion of dedicated play spaces that are rated high quality
- Method of Generation - Assess against the quality standards utilised in the play space audit.

### **Indicator 4 – Quality of Play services**

- Description – The number of play services and youth clubs having achieved a recognised quality mark status such as Quality in Play or YSQM Quality Mark for Services for Young People.
- Method of Generation – Confirmation of numbers from the accrediting organisations.

### **Indicator 5 – Satisfaction**

- Description - The percentage of children and young people from all social and ethnic groups, including those who are disabled, who think that the range and quality of play facilities and spaces they are able to access in their local neighbourhood is good/very good.
- Method of Generation - School and Household Survey  
BVPI 115 – Extent of Play Strategy Development

The Audit Commission has developed a voluntary performance indicator BVPI 115 on the development of local play policies. This is summarised below.

#### Services/ practice (from BVPI 115)

Every county, unitary and district authority should have an agreed play policy and strategy:

- The play policy should be widely scoped, including any local authority services that might directly or indirectly impact on children's play opportunities.
- The play policy should clearly identify the importance of play
- The policy should be integrated with other relevant community, corporate and departmental plans.
- The policy should be developed drawing on consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders.
- The policy should be endorsed by the Chief Executive and / or Members of the relevant committee
- The play policy should be based on a clear baseline assessment of local needs and identify current provision and opportunities for play.
- The play policy provides a clear framework for implementation and delivery.
- A Play Policy working group with key partners should be established to oversee the implementation and delivery of the policy
- A framework is in place for monitoring progress and regular reporting on plans.

The BVPI provides a detailed method of quantifying how far a local strategy goes in terms of meeting each these key elements and at overall score can be calculated.

The structure of the Action Plan relates to the 5 key themes of the Somerset Children and Young People's Plan.

### Theme 1 Being Healthy

Policy	Proposed Actions	Recommended Lead	Partners	Milestone/ Performance measure	Resource Implication <sup>1</sup>	Timeframe <sup>2</sup>
P1	1. Provide healthy eating advice and physical activity opportunities through programming at the children's centres and through youth service provision.	<sup>3</sup> Early Years: Play and Childcare Manager; Children's Centres; Youth Service	SASP [Somerset Activity & sports Partnership];	2 health eating advice sessions per year; 1 physical activity session at each Children's Centre and Youth Centre;	Yes - SASP Coaches	Short
	2. Ensure that Play is recognised as a contributor to improving children's health and explore partnerships with the Health and Wellbeing sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership	SDC: Regeneration/Leisure & Marketing	N/a	by Sept 08	No	Short
P2	3. Consult with children and young people with disabilities (in partnership with local disability group) to identify priority needs re access to play opportunities	SDC Regeneration / SCC	Disability Group, Sedgemoor Learning Alliance, Building Schools for the Future	By Sept 08	Small	Short
	4. Expand specialised programme for children with disabilities and increasing take up on inclusive schemes by children with disabilities.	<sup>3</sup> Foundation Stage Advisor and Group Manager SEN	Play Partnership	1 additional scheme by July 08	Yes, unknown	Medium

<sup>1</sup> Very "broad brush" concept - eg small = less than £5,000 (one off or p/a) - Large = minimum £50,000 (one off or p/a)

<sup>2</sup> Short = years 1 to 2; Medium = years 2 to 3; Long = Years 3+

<sup>3</sup> Taken from Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006 to 2009; published by County Council on 27 Sep 2006.

	<p>5. Extend access to special schools for children with disabilities outside of school hours (evenings and weekends)</p>	<p><sup>3</sup> Integrated Services Manager/Extended Schools Service</p>	<p>N/a</p>	<p>1 special school with extended access by July 08</p>	<p>Small</p>	<p>Medium</p>
	<p>6. Identify potential funds to support Play Specialist for therapeutic play for children with medical needs at hospital and peripatetic.</p>	<p>Somerset Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>Play Partnership</p>	<p>To be agreed</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>Short</p>

## Theme 2 Staying Safe

Policy	Proposed Actions	Lead	Partners	Milestone/ Perf. Meas.	Resource	Timeframe
P3	7. Partnership members adopt Position Statement re "Managing Risk" / To Promote awareness and implementation of this statement.	SDC	Play Partnership	Adopted June 2007	No	Short
	8. Convene a working group to identify measures to address bullying and "stranger danger" concerns.	Avon & Somerset Police - Schools Liaison Officer <sup>3</sup> County Anti-Bullying Strategy Group	Play Partnership	Group convened by Sept 08	No	Medium
P4	9. Play Partnership to input into walking reviews where routes being assessed are considered key routes to play.	SDC Regeneration <sup>3</sup> SCC Road Safety	Play Partnership	Update to PP July 08	Medium	Medium
	10. Ensure implementation of walking route planner takes into account key play locations/facilities	SDC Regeneration	Play Partnership	Principles applied to BIG capital projects & Play Area improvement programme	No	Short
	11. Ensure Play related 'Secured by Design' principles are followed in relation to new developments.	SDC Regeneration	Play Partnership			
P5	12. Identify any specific issues that prevent greater participation in play opportunities by children and young people from minority ethnic backgrounds. Prepare action plan based upon findings.	SDC Regeneration	SAIN [Somerset Access & Inclusion Network]; Play Partnership, Somerset	Plan to partnership by Sept 08	Small	Short

<sup>3</sup> Taken from Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006 to 2009; published by County Council on 27 Sep 2006.

			Racial Equality Council, Forum for Equality & Diversity in Somerset			
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### Theme 3                      Enjoying and Achieving

Policy	Proposed Actions	Lead	Partners	Milestone/ Perf. Meas	Resource	Timeframe
P6	13. Partnership members adopt and use recommended good practice models for design of play space (including Guidance on inclusivity) e.g. Best Play: What play provision should do for children (Criteria for an enriched play environment).	SDC Regeneration	Parish Councils	Principles applied to BIG capital projects & Play Area improvement programme	Small	Short
	14. Review current SDC play area improvement programme 2007-08 and onwards based upon Strategy Prioritisation Assessment Tool.	SDC Regeneration	N/a	Completed by Sept 08	Small	Medium
	15. Implement BIG Lottery Play projects (Play Rangers and Apex Park)	SDC Regeneration	Other Local Authorities, Play partnership	As per SDC BIG Lottery Play projects application milestones	Large(BLF)	Short
	16. Conduct audit to identify informal "natural" space suitable for play. Promote play on appropriate "natural" play space through suitable local and national funding schemes e.g. Local Landfill Awards, Awards for All etc.	SDC Regeneration & Somerset Wildlife Trust	Natural England	Play on 2 sites by July 2008	Medium(BLF)	Short
	17. Review locations of Children's Centres to widen access in the 10 most deprived wards (including extended schools options)	SCC, Locality Managers	SDC Regeneration	Review completed by Sept 08	Medium(BLF)	Medium
	18. Investigate subsidy schemes to provide free access to playschemes and out-of-school schemes to improve access for low-income families. Support new provision of playschemes and out-of-school clubs as needed.	Somerset Children and Young Peoples Partnership [SCYPP]	SDC Regeneration	Subsidy feasibility scheme completed by Sept 2008	Large	Medium
	19. Develop minimum 1 project per year to provide informal indoor or outdoor meeting places for young people e.g. youth shelters and youth cafes	SDC Regeneration	Play Partnership; Voluntary Sector	1 new shelter by July 08	Medium(BLF)	Short



P7	20. Target activity programme schemes in those areas identified as in most need either in terms of child deprivation indicators or youth disorder "hot spots".	SDC Leisure & Marketing	SASP; Youth Services	1 project by July 09	Medium	Medium
	21. Identify potential funding opportunities to provide storytelling and arts play at libraries (including mobile libraries)	County Librarian	Play Partnership	To be agreed	No	Short
P8	22. Implement a promotional campaign to celebrate the active contribution children and young people play in developing play initiatives, and the importance of play	Play Partnership	Youth services. Somerset Play Forum	1 <sup>st</sup> campaign project by April 08	Small	Medium

**Theme 4**

**Making a positive contribution**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Milestone/ Perf. Meas</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
P9	23. Maintain and develop local consultation in relation to playground and youth facility developments	SDC Regeneration	Youth Service	Engagement with BIG projects	Small	Short
	24. Establish an ongoing "Junior Youth" Forum to meet six monthly. Report to and secure feedback from group regarding implementation of Play Strategy Action Plan. Cover other issues as appropriate.	SDC Regeneration/ <sup>3</sup> SCC Participation manager, SEN Group Manager, Youth Service	Play Partnership	Established by April 08	No	Short
	25. Establish a School/Play Area "twinning" system. Link an appropriate local school to play/youth facilities for ongoing consultation purposes. Introduce an annual "customer satisfaction" survey through this system.	Play Partnership	Extended Schools	Established by June 08	Medium	Medium
P10	26. Develop and implement a training and support programme for town and parish councils in relation to play space development and management.	SDC Regeneration	Parish and Town Councils	1 <sup>st</sup> session by April 08	Small	Medium
	27. Promote the availability of grants schemes for local parish and voluntary sector play and youth initiatives.	SDC Regeneration	Parish Councils	1 <sup>st</sup> session by April 08	Small	Medium
P11	28. Audit voluntary play, youth and uniformed organisations operating in the area. Explore the potential for establishing a local network for such organisations.	Play Partnership	Youth Service, Play Partnership, Children & Young People's Plan (CYPPS)	Completed by Sept 08	Medium	Medium

<sup>3</sup> Taken from Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006 to 2009; published by County Council on 27 Sep 2006.

	29. Provide funding advice and support to voluntary sector organisations providing play and youth opportunities in the rural areas.	SDC Regeneration	Play Partnership	Funding seminar by Sept 08	Medium	Medium
	30. Prepare a plan for the development of extended schools arrangements to improve Play provision, particularly in the Rural areas.	SDC Regeneration & <sup>3</sup> Program Manager Extended Schools	Schools	Plan completed by Sept 09	Medium	Long
	31. Identify 1 rural school and implement a pilot extended schools play project.	Play Partnership & Extended Schools	Schools	Plan completed by Sept 09	Small	Long
	32. Explore transport options to improve access to play opportunities from rural areas e.g. subsidised buses, community transport etc	Somerset Rural Transport Partnership	Somerset Children and Young people Partnership	To be agreed	Small	Medium

**Theme 5                    Achieving economic well-being.**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Milestone/ Perf. Meas</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
P12	33. Review and adopt the Local Standards proposed within the strategy for play/youth provision in the current review of PPG17 and Open Space Strategy work.	SDC Regeneration	SDC Planning	Adopted by Council as part of Open Space Strategy	Yes	Short
	34. Ensure appropriate Play/Youth provision and maintenance in relation to development proposals.	SDC Regeneration	SDC Parks	Review procedures annually	Yes	Medium
	35. Investigate feasibility of developing Somerset SPD (Supplementary Planning Document – Play & Informal Recreation Area in Conjunction with New Housing Development).	SDC, Mendip, South Somerset, Taunton Deane, West Somerset	Somerset Play Forum	January 2008	Small	Short
	36. Prepare a funding plan (internal and external) to identify potential sources of funding to help implement Play Strategy proposals, and BLF proposals that were not successful for inclusion in the bid. Apply for appropriate funds	Play Partnership	Somerset Play Forum	Plan to Play Partnership by April 08	Small	Short
P13	37. Provide a programme of youth and play training in support of both paid and voluntary play/youth workers (including disability awareness and inclusion training).	Play Partnership	Play Partnership	Programme 1 by April 08	Small	Short
	38. Adopt nationally recognised quality assurance scheme/s for play service providers	SDC	Play Partnership	Sept 09	Medium	Long