

Playtime in the Peak!

Executive Summary

Welcome to our strategy for Play and encouraging young peoples activity in the High Peak. We have agreed the following Vision for play in the Borough.

‘High Peak will be a child friendly place where all children and young people have access to play opportunities within their local communities, which offer variety, adventure and stimulus. They will be able to play freely and safely and make choices about where, how and when they play.’

We have worked within the following six core values that determine our approach to play provision:

- Play is an activity that has a value in its own right. It is about the fun and satisfaction of the participant and benefits children, young people, families and communities.
- Every child and young person in High Peak should be able to access play opportunities, play activities, play facilities relevant to their needs and play aspirations.
- Children and young people in High Peak have the right to secure safe, hazard free play environments and to lead active, healthy lives.
- Children and young people should be involved in the design of the environment in which they play.
- The views, opinions and experiences of children and young people should be taken into account in the development of policies and strategies and the decision making processes which impact upon their lives.
- The role of early years provision for play in child development is recognised within the strategy

We have used these values to establish the following nine key objectives for delivering play provision in the borough. We will:

- ensure and improve play space and play provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety
- ensure that play space and play provision is inclusive and meets the needs of all local children and young people

- promote greater social inclusion
- develop a balance between supervised and unsupervised provision according to local need
- ensure that play spaces enhance the quality of the local environment for children and young people
- improve the public realm as a child-friendly environment and make best use of the public realm and natural environment
- provide a clear framework for investment priorities, action and workforce development
- make clear links to other relevant strategies and plans in the borough.
- make the best use of natural environment and public realm

We have consulted with young people and Agencies across the Borough on these objectives and our Action Plan that sets out our proposals for taking the Strategy forward. We wish to ensure that Play is embedded into the community in recognition of its benefits for health and well being.

The strategy cuts across a wide range of council and partner activities and requires partnership working to enable the Action Plan to be fulfilled. It covers a five year period and will be driven by the Play Partnership that is being established through the High Peak and North Derbyshire Children and Young Peoples Partnership

The Action Plan identifies specific priorities under each objective for the first two years of the strategy. The Plan will be updated annually and monitored through our performance management process.

Cllr Andrew Bingham Executive Member

Playtime in the Peak!

A Play Strategy for High Peak Borough Council

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High Peak Borough Council

Profile of the Borough

The High Peak is situated within the Peak District at the north-western tip of Derbyshire and the East Midlands Region. Its stunning Dark Peak and White Peak landscapes and its distinctive townscapes, together with its close proximity to Manchester and Sheffield make it a highly popular visitor destination and sought after area in which to live. Kinder Scout, at the centre of the High Peak, is the highest point in the Peak District. In area High Peak is the second largest district in Derbyshire. Whilst two-thirds of the Borough lies in the Peak District National Park, most (93%) of its population lives outside the Park, with the major population centres being around Glossop to the north, and Buxton to the south.

Unique to the High Peak is its position surrounded by five counties (Cheshire, Staffordshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester) and within a sixth – Derbyshire itself. For Government purposes, the High Peak lies within the East Midlands, whilst having links with Greater Manchester, Yorkshire and West Midlands Regions.

How the Council works

There are 43 elected members representing residents of the High Peak across its 28 wards. Following the 2007 local elections the Council is run by a Conservative Executive

Since 2000 the Council's political structure has been that of a Leader and cabinet style Executive team who make decisions within the agreed budget and policies of the Council. The Executive meet 8 times a year in public with each member having responsibility for a specific portfolio of Council functions.

The new Executive has established six Executive Boards that will have responsibility for portfolio areas reflecting the councils corporate aims.

Scrutiny

The Council has 4 Select or Scrutiny Committees – Corporate, Regeneration, Environment, and Social Inclusion and Community - which together cover most of the Council's functions. These committees not only scrutinise Council performance, its decisions and actions taken in carrying out its duties, but also:

- ❖ make recommendations to the Executive and Council;
- ❖ exercise the right to call-in decisions not yet implemented by the Executive;
- ❖ assist in the development of the Council's budget and policy framework through in-depth analysis of critical issues;
- ❖ conduct research and consultation to help shape policy;
- ❖ consider ways to enhance community participation in developing policy; and
- ❖ liaise with external partners to ensure the Borough benefits from collaborative working

In addition to these scrutiny groups a Provision For Youth Select Sub – Committee has been established with the specific remit of overseeing the preparation of the borough's Play Strategy. An Executive member has been identified as the Play Champion with responsibility for the implementation of the Play Strategy.

Ward Councillors

As well as taking on formal roles within decision making and scrutiny, members have an important role in providing feedback to the Council on areas of concern within each ward in order for issues to be discussed and addressed.

Details of local ward representatives and the committees they sit on in the Council can be downloaded from our website at www.highpeak.gov.uk together with contact details.

High Peak Borough Council is one of eight district or borough councils within Derbyshire County. Derbyshire County Council has formed a County Play partnership and produced a County wide strategy ' Planning for Play' which recognises the value of partnership working in this context.

Derbyshire is a two-tier County Structure, incorporating County, District and Borough Councils, together with the unitary authority of Derby City Council. Partnership working is very important in two tier authorities, for the following reasons:

' Metropolitan and unitary authorities throughout England benefit from having play, leisure, planning, education, youth and highways functions within the same authority; so although there is a clear role for other agencies and organisations within the strategy process, the task of coordinating and encouraging input from key services will, in theory, be easier to achieve.

On the other hand, district and county councils do not have sole responsibility for the above functions, which means that they must be more inclusive in terms of the public agencies they encourage to become involved in the strategy process. Partnerships, particularly those that have a clear focus on children and young people, could be a useful starting point in two tier areas.

Normally such a partnership would operate as a distinct working group within the hierarchy of partnership arrangements that feed into the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships (CYPSP) or Children's Trusts. In second tier authorities, new ways of working in partnership with key stakeholders may be needed, with the local authority possibly having an enabling role.'

Big Lottery Play Strategy Guidance 2006

Taken from 'Planning for Play' - 2006, Derbyshire County Council Play Strategy

With the need for closer partnership working in mind we have established the High Peak and North Derbyshire Childrens and Young Peoples Partnership as the Play Partnership for development and monitoring of the implementation of our Play Strategy. This ensures that the links between local planning for play and the wider County strategies are clearly made.

'Planning for Play' goes on to recognise the strategic role that the County has in setting the context for Play within the framework of the Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Childrens Act 2004 and has established the following objective and delivery mechanism:

'To develop high quality Play, which improves the quality of the built and natural environment, enhances the quality of life for children and the whole community and promotes pride in public spaces and green areas.'

Delivery Mechanisms

The Children Act (2004) establishes Children's Trusts as a way of placing the responsibility for all services for children and young people with a single formal partnership arrangement.

From April 2006, local authorities are required to produce a Children and Young People's Plan which sets out the local vision for children and young people, a strategic analysis showing how key outcomes will be achieved, and the actions, timescales and costs involved. It links upwards to the community strategy and downwards to other local plans and strategies,

including the play strategy, to integrate the delivery of all services for children and young people in the area.

Derbyshire County Council is going to work with the Children's Trust in Derbyshire, to participate in partnership in order to deliver its aims and objectives through five key policy statements, which are to:

- Develop a co-ordinated approach to play
- Develop a play service that is accessible to all children
- Develop existing and new opportunities
- Involve children and young people in meeting their needs
- Share resources and ensure the highest quality provision is sustainable and appropriate to local needs

High Peak Borough Council has participated in the Derbyshire Play Forum and has taken account of these objectives in preparing its own vision and objectives for the provision of children's play opportunities in the borough.

The borough has a mix of rural and market town environments with many isolated rural communities with limited access to public transport.

Statistics

Population	90,600	Households	39,171
0-16 year old children			19,637
Area	53,915 hectares	Unemployment	1.5%
Ethnicity	1.3%	Indices of Deprivation	211 out of 354

Within the borough there is only one ward that falls within the top 10% of most deprived wards in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This ward covers Gamesley, which consists of a small village with large social housing estate attached. The ward has been the subject of Single Regeneration Budget funding and improvement programmes linked to housing stock refurbishment. The borough does however suffer from rural isolation due to its geography and public transport links.

The need for Play provision

The borough is situated in the heart of some stunning rural scenery and with a large proportion of the area within the Peak District National Park. Whilst access to open land for recreation purposes has improved in recent years, the public transport infrastructure still presents challenges in gaining easy access for families and young people for play opportunities within the National Park. The development of 'child friendly' visitor centres in Castleton for example, nature trails and activities run by the Park Ranger Service have contributed in this respect.

Parks and green open spaces within the townships and villages still provide the most accessible opportunities for children and young people to play. With this in mind, our strategy reflects the need to identify, audit and maintain and improve public open space the borough has responsibility for. Due to the small size of villages and town ships we have limited areas of accessible public open space and these spaces need to be maintained to a high standard to make best use of the scarce resource.

The rural environment that exists over most of the borough also results in limited access to larger urban leisure activities for children and young people for example leisure parks, cinemas and larger formal recreation facilities. This makes the need for more informal play opportunities and access to play provision even greater.

Over recent years the borough council parks section has achieved a significant programme of improvement in fixed play facilities and sought to create a better experience of park use through capital improvements. This programme continues but will be significantly enhanced through the use of BIG funding. In reviewing the play provision within the borough and the evidence from consultation we have recognised that the provision of good quality free play spaces will best use resources to achieve sustainability. Schemes such as Play Ranger programmes will not succeed in rural environments with small child populations in isolated communities. In order for these schemes to be successful there needs to be a critical mass that will ensure the success and this is difficult to achieve within the borough. We have however recognised the advantage of some mobile programmes such as skate board parks and play buses. We will use the BIG funding to accelerate our programme of improvements and to fill the gaps in provision identified through our audit and consultation.

County Need Statistics

The figures in the table show High Peak in the context of the Countywide picture and relate to the Formula Spending Share, which is used by central government to allocate finance to the eight district councils within Derbyshire. It is based on calculations involving:

- One parent households
- IS Claimants
- Population Density
- Number of children in flats
- Children with limiting long term illness
- Numbers of children outside the UK
- Numbers employed in routine/semi routine occupations

The old DCC Social Services Department used this formula when allocating new resources on a countywide basis.

Total 0-17 Population

This is based on the numbers identified in the 2001 census updated to mid 2004 estimates. The percentage figure in the next column represents the proportion of Derbyshire children living in each district council area.

Total Children in Need (CIN)

These are the total number identified in the Children in Need census undertaken in February 2005. Again, the proportion of the County's children in need by district council is identified in the next column, and the percentage of the local child population deemed to be in need is in the third.

Looked After Children (LAC)

Numbers here are averages for the period April 05 – January 06. Data not available for Derbyshire Dales as Dales numbers are allocated on a 60/40 basis between High Peak and South Derbyshire. This reflects the PCT boundaries.

Child Protection Register (CPR)

Numbers are for February 2005.

Social Services Referrals

Numbers for year ending January 06

Teenage Pregnancy

Numbers refer to 2003 for under 18 conceptions. Amended version refers to the period 2001 – 2003.

NEET (Not in employment, education or training)

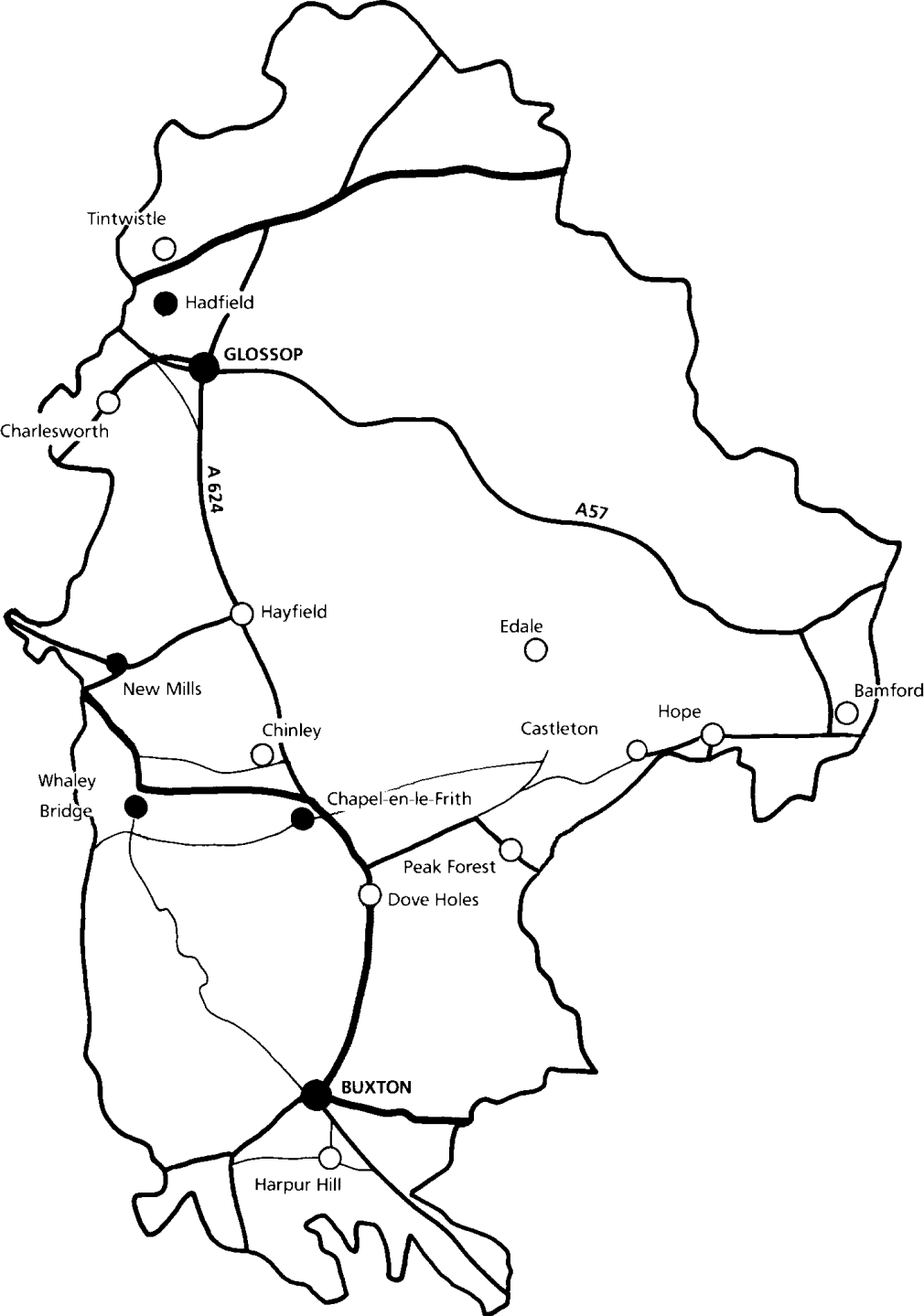
Numbers refer to the November 2005 figure submitted by Connexions.

Domestic Abuse

Numbers refer to calls received by the police for service between April and September 2004.

The borough council area is shown on the following map :

High Peak Borough Council Area



COUNTY NEED STATISTICS – Amended

FSS	District	Total 0-17 population	Total %	Total CIN	County	Local	LAC	County	CPR	County	Refs SSD	County	Offenders		Teenage Pregnancy		NEET		Domestic Abuse	
			%											%		%		%		%
15	Amber Valley	25384	16	568	13	2	65	13	48	16	861	10	363	12	211	15.5	232	18	590	14
12.5	Bolsover	15958	10	480	11	3	81	16	42	14	1224	14	343	11.5	182	13	112	8.5	582	13.5
17	Chesterfield	21176	13	1126	26	5	130	25	61	20	2232	26	577	19	262	19	226	17	853	20
6	Dales	14078	9	262	6	2	*		*		*		195	6.5	54	4	70	5	180	4
15	Erewash	24470	15	621	14	2.5	80	15.5	48	16	1345	16	434	14.5	246	18	217	16	687	16
11.5	High Peak	20227	12.5	480	11	2	68	13	48	16	1068	12.5	427	14.5	167	12	170	13	464	11
12.5	NE Derbyshire	19793	12	398	9	2	44	8.5	32	10.5	892	10.5	303	10	139	10	185	14	471	11
9	S Derbyshire	20137	12.5	414	9.5	2	48	9	25	8	905	11	287	9.5	109	8	92	7	476	11
		161223		4349			516		304		8527		2968		1370		1303		4303	

* Figures for Dales split 60/40 into High Peak/South Derbyshire

Formula spending share based on:

One parent household
 IS Claimants
 Population density
 Living in flats
 Long term illness
 Born outside UK
 Semi routine/routine occupation



1.0 What is Play?

‘The right to play is a child’s first claim on the community. Play is nature’s training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens.’

David Lloyd George

The National Occupational Standards of the playwork, childcare and early years professions define play as ‘freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. It can be fun or serious... by playing, children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community’.

B Hughes and F King, 1985 as adopted by the National Occupational Standards for Playwork.

Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31

Play is also defined comprehensively within the Derbyshire Play Strategy 2006, ‘Planning for Play’ and these definitions provide a basis for our strategy as expressed below:

- Play is the ability of an individual to explore and learn from a given environment through freedom of choice and behavioural attitudes in a structured or instructed way. It applies to everyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Play is an informal, recreational activity that contributes towards enjoyment, fun, social interaction and development of creative imagination. Play is about choosing an activity that can develop mental and physical health that can sometimes be risky and dangerous. It should apply to everybody whenever an opportunity arises for recreating ones own time.
- Play is the essential foundation for developing positive life skills for all, especially children, young people and adults, outside of school hours. It is a combination of supervised and unsupervised activities, which are imaginative, interactive and fun.
- Play is freedom, expression, and creativity, risk taking, active and involves learning without realising it.

- Play is for all, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, disability, gender, or where they live. It applies anywhere, anytime and is something that a person does for the fun of it.
- Play applies to all ages, doesn't have to have an outcome and may be solitary or in a group. It can be active or passive, structured or unstructured and involves learning, creativity, stimulation, enjoyment and exploration. There are no boundaries to where play can take place.

Derbyshire Play Forum, April 2006

Supervised and unsupervised play

Supervised Play requires the presence of an appropriately qualified adult. Children welcome the presence of adults around where they are playing such as in parks or in more organised settings. They see an adult's presence as supportive and helping children play. Good play work is a skill that has to be learned and honed like any profession.

Unskilled play supervision can inhibit the play experience, undermine children's confidence to play and lessen children's enjoyment in attending. It is important to note that whilst activities may advertise as offering play unless the activities and supervision allow free choice they are not play. Training is essential to improving the quality of play supervision. Good play supervision is the key to the inclusion of all children in play events and the deepening of play experiences. It may be within a club, on the park or at home.

Informal supervision of play can often take place through the presence of adults who have tasks associated with the maintenance of public open space for example Estate Caretakers on council owned estates and grounds maintenance operatives in parks. This can provide a level of comfort to children and young people who are aware that a council employee is in the vicinity without having any formal responsibility for the children and young people.

Unsupervised play is important to all children but especially to the older age group who will seek opportunities to be with their peer group. It is necessary to find young people space to meet and engage in recreational activities with their friends, where they can feel safe without the presence of adults.

Free play allows children to develop their own experiences and explore possibilities. This strategy will enable children to undertake free play and will focus on providing suitable environments for this to be achieved both in formal and informal play environments.

Benefits of Play

‘Play often, though not always, implies a sense of fun for the child. But it can also be serious, in two senses. The child may feel serious while playing, and/or the content of the play may be serious, that is, not trivial and light-hearted. Much free play is reflective. Play is as much in the approach as in the activity – way of doing anything or nothing.’

Best Play – What Play Provision Should Do For Children - March 2000

Benefits that are experienced at the time that the child is playing:

- Provides children with opportunities to enjoy freedom, and exercise choice and control over their actions
- Offers children opportunities for testing boundaries and exploring risk
- Offers a very wide range of physical, social and intellectual experiences for children

Benefits that develop over time:

- Fosters children's independence and self-esteem
- Develops children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction
- Supports the child's well-being, healthy growth and development
- Increases children's knowledge and understanding
- Promotes children's creativity and capacity to learn

Benefits of play provision for families and community

- Helps reduce the involvement of children and young people in anti-social behaviour, in the short term; and plays a part in promoting social cohesion in the longer term
- Supports families and communities, by providing a focus for informal networks of family support, and by allowing children autonomy within an environment which parents feel secure about
- Makes an important contribution, in parallel with education, in developing adults who are creative and effective in the social and economic sphere
- Offers opportunities for exploring cultural identity and difference
- Provides a focus for tackling social exclusion through community development

Derbyshire Play Forum, April 2006

2.0 Core Values

We have agreed a set of core values in relation to our commitment to play provision in the Borough:

- Play is an activity that has a value in its own right. It is about the fun and satisfaction of the participant and benefits children, young people, families and communities.
- Every child and young person in High Peak should be able to access play opportunities, play activities, play facilities relevant to their needs and play aspirations.
- Children and young people in High Peak have the right to secure safe, hazard free play environments and to lead active, healthy lives.
- Children and young people should be involved in the design of the environment in which they play.
- The views, opinions and experiences of children and young people should be taken into account in the development of policies and strategies and the decision making processes which impact upon their lives.
- The role of early years provision for play in child development is recognised within the strategy

These values have taken account of the Play objectives outlined in 'Best Play', 'Planning For Play' a Play Policy for Derbyshire County Council, and good practice outlined in BLF guidance.

3.0 Our Vision

'High Peak will be a child friendly place where all children and young people have access to play opportunities within their local communities, which offer variety, adventure and stimulus. They will be able to play freely and safely and make choices about where, how and when they play.'

4.0 Our Objectives

The main objectives of this play strategy are to:

- ensure and improve play space and play provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety
- ensure that play space and play provision is inclusive and meets the needs of all local children and young people
- promote greater social inclusion
- develop a balance between supervised and unsupervised provision according to local need
- ensure that play spaces enhance the quality of the local environment for children and young people
- improve the public realm as a child-friendly environment
- provide a clear framework for investment priorities, action and workforce development
- make clear links to other relevant strategies and plans in the borough.
- make the best use of natural environment and public realm

In preparation of the strategy and our action plan we have adopted a number of general principles, which develop the main objectives outlined above:

- The strategy will be targeted at children from 0 to 16 years old.
- Meaningful participation of children and young people in the process, to ensure relevance and ownership
- Establishment of a clear vision and policy framework
- Shared understanding and adoption of the principles of play as a child's right and essential to their healthy development
- Shared understanding of the principles of inclusion and the social model of disability
- Understanding the play needs and aspirations of local children and young people
- Formation of collaborative and enabling partnerships
- Sustainability
- Understanding of risk and safety issues in relation to children's play
- Quality, long-term design principles
- Sustainable management and maintenance arrangements

- Understanding and promotion of the recognised objectives of good play provision
- Inclusive and accessible design principles.

The strategy will run for a period of five years although the Action Plan covers a three year period initially. High Peak Borough Council is committed to an ongoing programme of capital funding for play provision within this five year period. The strategy will be reviewed annually and monitored through the councils performance monitoring system

Consultation and Involvement

In the preparation of this strategy we have utilised significant amounts of information resulting from consultation with residents, groups and other over recent years. The results of this exercise are summarised in an Appendix to the strategy. We are committed to involving children and young people in the preparation and delivery of the strategy and want them to be at the centre of the process. We will continue to use a variety of mechanisms to achieve engagement including peer involvement mechanisms. We believe that it is better to use existing structures and networks to achieve involvement and participation where they exist rather than setting up specific groups and will adopt this approach in implementing this strategy.

We have used local newspapers to get feedback on some basic issues around play and the results have been analysed and incorporated into the strategy. We have also asked a number of questions through the High Peak Citizens Panel and although the results are not yet finalised they will be reviewed as part of the ongoing updating of the action plan.

Each of the specific schemes within the project portfolio will also be the subject of detailed engagement and involvement in the detailed design and delivery stage of the scheme when the project managers, our Parks Service will engage with local residents including young people in agreeing the layout of the scheme and specific provision. This method has proved very successful in the past as we can ensure a short timescale between involvement on design and the delivery of the scheme.

5.0 Policy Framework

In undertaking the preparation of this strategy we have taken account of the following policies and their impact on play:

HPBC Corporate Plan 2007-2012 Improving High Peak

- Within the 'Supporting People' Theme, the plan identifies 'Providing opportunities for children and young people as a priority theme and refers to the investment in capital equipment and also the need to secure external funding to complement the programme

HPBC Equal Opportunities Policy and Corporate Equality Plan

- This policy recognises that we will not discriminate in the delivery of services and will have due regard to the specific needs of our residents including children and young people. We will also specifically recognise the implications of our recently published Disability Equality Scheme in the delivery of our play provision within the borough.

Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy 2006-2009

- This strategy has been produced by the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Local Strategic Partnership and has eight themes. Of these themes, there are three that are particularly relevant: Furthering Community Participation and Involvement, Opportunities for young people including leisure, and Health.
- **Furthering Community Participation and Involvement.** Projects under this theme include support for 'Friends of Parks' Groups who will influence the play provision within parks.
- **Opportunities for Young People.** Projects within this theme include the provision of a mobile skatepark to serve rural communities.
- **Health.** Projects include increasing activities that support healthy lifestyles. The LSP has taken account of 'Choosing Health' in determining objectives within this theme.

Local regeneration strategies:

Vision Glossop

- Results of the Glossop Vision Action Plan and the Liveability Residents Survey carried out in 2005 have been taken account of in priority setting for the Play Strategy Action Plan. Information on teenagers congregating and the provision of youth shelters and a skate park have been identified through this process.

Vision Buxton

- The Buxton Partnership Business Plan identifies successes and priorities for the period 2004-2007 and includes the delivery of a new skate park in Cote Heath recreation ground to provide a 'youth activity site'. The Plan is based on the market town health check and action plan, completed in spring 2004.

Village Plans and Health Checks

- The strategy takes account of village plans that have been prepared and market town health checks that have been undertaken. The results of consultation that relate to play and play provision have been summarised in the Appendix on consultation within the strategy.

The Play Review

Derbyshire County Council Children and Young Peoples Plan

- The plan outlines the vision and key priorities to improve the lives of children, young people and their families within our County. It is based on the five outcomes for children and young people in Every Child Matters; **Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Economic Well Being**. It covers the period 2006-2009 but will be reviewed on an annual basis in the light of changing needs and priorities. The Play Strategy complements these outcomes where possible and contributes to their achievement through the implementation of actions within the Play Strategy Action Plan. The High Peak and North Derbyshire Dales Children and Young People's Partnership has a formal link into the structure of the Children and Young Peoples Plan. As the Play Partnership for the strategy the Partnership will ensure that the play outcomes relate to the outcomes within Every Child Matters.

Derbyshire County Council, Planning for Play Policy.

The following policy statements within this strategy have been taken account of:

- Develop a co-ordinated approach to play. This is reflected particularly in the development of the Play Partnership.
- Develop a play service that is accessible to all children
- Develop existing and new opportunities
- Involving children and young people in meeting their needs, Sharing resources and ensuring the highest quality provision is sustainable and appropriate to local needs

6.0 Resources

The Borough Council has access to funding from Big Lottery Fund: Children's Play Initiative. BLF have identified £200,000 for HPBC based on child population weighted by poverty indices out of a total of £124million and a further £31million for innovation in play. HPBC have indicated that we will enter the bid round ending March 2007.

The initiative is targeted at young people under 16.

HPBC has also identified funding from within the Capital Budget for the improvement and creation of play facilities on council owned land. Details of the investment programme can be found at Appendix 3.

Other match funding sources are being explored.

7.0 Stakeholders

This strategy acknowledges that the following stakeholders have an interest in the preparation and delivery of the strategy.

Children and Young People

High Peak Borough Council service areas

High Peak Community Housing

Residents

Voluntary groups involved in children's play

Parish Councils

Regeneration Partnerships

We support the formation of a Play Partnership that reflects the stakeholder interests and the existing Play Strategy sub group will form the basis of this partnership as we move to achieve our Action Plan. We will invite other lead agencies who have responsibility for service delivery within the Borough to be part of the Partnership, ie Derbyshire County Council and Peak District National Park Authority.

The following agencies have been invited to form the Play partnership:

- Derbyshire County Council
- High Peak Community Housing
- High Peak CVS
- Sure Start
- Derbyshire Rural Community Council
- Derbyshire Children and Young Peoples Partnership
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

In view of the potential for duplication across the County resulting from two tier status we are pursuing the option of integrating the Play Partnership into the High Peak and North Derbyshire Dales Children and Young Peoples Partnership.

8.0 Managing risk in play provision:

In preparing this strategy we have reviewed the management of risk and as a result have adopted the following position statement prepared by the Play Safety Forum.

Introduction

The Play Safety Forum, a grouping of national agencies involved in play safety, has produced *Managing Risk in Play Provision* to support the work of those involved in play provision of any kind (for example play areas, playgrounds, adventure playgrounds, play centres and holiday play schemes). These include local authorities, voluntary organisations, play equipment manufacturers and inspection agencies. The statement has relevance to other settings and environments in which children play, such as childcare provision, schools, parks and public open spaces. It will also be of interest to those involved in insurance and litigation in relation to play provision. The statement has equal relevance to children and young people of all ages from 0 to 18, and it uses the term “children” to cover the whole age range. It focuses on physical injuries resulting from accidents. However, the overall approach, namely that a balance should be struck between risks and benefits, is also relevant to agencies concerned with other issues such as the personal safety of children. The statement is in two forms: a summary and a full statement. The summary is set out below and the full statement is included as an appendix to this strategy. The full statement has been accepted as the borough council’s position on managing risk in the context of play.

Summary Statement

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



9.0 Play Provision

We have undertaken an audit of existing Play provision within the borough on Council and Parish Council owned land and the results are summarised in Appendix 1.

We have used the audit information that we have together with other sources that have been identified through our consultation review, to identify gaps in provision or facilities that require refurbishment or review. This process has informed our bid for Big lottery funding portfolio together with our investment priorities for HPC owned sites.

The Council is currently preparing an Open Space Strategy and within this we will be mindful of the creation of local standards for leisure and recreation as set out in PPG 17.

A list of Parish Council Play areas is included at Appendix 2

10.0 Play Policy Statement :Fulfilling our Objectives

Objective One

To ensure and improve play space and play provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions

- Update the audit of Borough and Parish Council owned sites has recently been completed and has been used to carry out an analysis of play space in terms of quality, accessibility and safety.
- Map the provision within the Borough to identify the quantity of suitable space to enable the identification of gaps in provision.
- The Audit has enabled priorities for investment to be determined.
- Involve young people in the improvement process

Objective Two

To ensure that play space and play provision is inclusive and meets the needs of all local children and young people

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- We will audit existing and proposed play provision to ensure that it provides access for disabled children.
- Provide clear information on the range of play facilities at different sites including details of accessibility. This information will also be useful to pram, pushchair and wheelchair users.

Objective Three

To promote greater social inclusion

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Identify those areas that suffer from social exclusion due to factors linked to deprivation or geographical isolation and ensure that appropriate play provision is provided in these areas
- Offer a range of play provision that will combat social exclusion where identified

Objective Four

To develop a balance between supervised and unsupervised provision according to local need

In this context supervised means structured or guided play rather than self directed play

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Identify as part of the mapping exercise sites that will provide supervised and unsupervised play opportunities
- Consult with local groups and agencies to establish views on the balance between supervised and unsupervised play opportunities
- Prepare a schedule of activities that regularly offer opportunities for structured supervised play within the Borough

- Provide a programme for the establishment of supervised or unsupervised play opportunities where a local need has been identified

Objective Five

To ensure that play spaces enhance the quality of the local environment for children and young people

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Establish a quality standard for the provision of play spaces within the Borough
- Establish a standard specification for play equipment provided within the Borough
- Continue a programme of inspections of Play spaces and equipment
- Continue a planned and reactive maintenance programme for play equipment that is owned by the Borough

Objective Six

To improve the public realm as a child-friendly environment by creating safe thoroughfares and interesting and stimulating features to engage with children and young people.

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Review signage identifying public play spaces at a local level
- Encourage road safety initiatives in areas where children travel to play spaces
- Create themed play trails within the public realm to encourage walking and promote access to play spaces
- Investigate the creation of Home Zones as areas where children can have more freedom to play in a safe environment close to their home

Objective Seven

To provide a clear framework for investment priorities, action and workforce development

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Publish clear criteria for investment priorities for play provision within the Borough
- Identify in priority order, investment priorities for the borough and using capital programme and other sources of funding
- Identify investment priorities for sites that are not in Borough council ownership

Objective Eight

To make clear links to other relevant strategies and plans in the borough.

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Identify relevant strategies and partners that will be affected by the strategy and consult with them on the preparation of the strategy
- Establish a Play Partnership that will include key partners involved in the delivery of play provision
- Promote and share best practice in play provision
- Identify opportunities, being innovative and flexible

Objective Nine

To make the best use of the natural environment and public realm

In order to achieve this objective we will undertake the following actions:

- Utilise partnership working with Groundwork to facilitate opportunities for youth engagement in the Public realm
- Identify and promote sites where the natural environment provides quality play experiences
- Improve access to natural environment play sites
- Maximise the play value of the natural environment on existing formal /equipped sites

Appendix 1	Summary of Audit of Borough Council and Parish Council owned Play Sites
Appendix 2	Parish Council Play Areas
Appendix 3	Borough Council Investment priorities
Appendix 4	Consultation and Involvement
Appendix 5	Action Plan
Appendix 6	Managing Risk in Play Provision

