

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Monday 18th December 2017 |
| Report Subject | Play Wales : Play Sufficiency |
| Report Author | Chief Officers Organisational Change Interim Chief Officer Education and Integrated Youth Services |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire County Council has a strong record in supporting the development of play. On an annual basis the Council has completed a Play Sufficiency Assessment to Welsh Government demonstrating the progress made against this Duty. Scrutiny Committee have received annual progress reports.

Nationally in Wales there is a concern with the levels of austerity faced by Public Services that play provision will face adverse and significant impacts. Play Wales are the national charity supporting play and are advocating a more strategic and joined up approach to Play for the future. This is to ensure that activity and resources are combined both across Council Departments, Public Services and partners to help protect and develop access to play opportunities.

Play Wales and the Council's Play Development Officer will present to committee on: the progress made on play sufficiency; successes; areas of concern, opportunities, and priorities for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | To comment on progress made against the Play Sufficiency Duty and to support a joined up approach to strategic planning for Play in the future. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | BACKGROUND INFORMATION |
| 1.01 | Overall Flintshire Council has managed to maintain a strong commitment to play even during the recent years of austerity. This includes: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to provide the appropriate support to all play areas with no closures of play areas due to budget reductions; • Maintaining the revenue play area match funding scheme to enable Town and Community Councils to work with the Council to refurbish existing play areas; • Developing a three year capital programme allocation to improve red rated play areas; • Continuing to work with Town and Community Councils to support access to play schemes and play opportunities. |
| 1.02 | This commitment is shown in our Play Sufficiency assessment ratings between 2013 and 2016 that shows we have reduced the number of red rated areas from 13 to 7. |
| 1.03 | Play Wales will present with the Council's Play Development Officer at the scrutiny committee. This will include: reminding Committee of the strategic context for Play; progress made against the Sufficiency Duty: highlighting successes, areas of concern, opportunities and priorities for going forward. |
| 1.04 | Flintshire Council has in partnership with Play Wales made a commitment to a more strategic approach to play development. As part of this approach early in the New Year a professional development programme will be launched to support this approach. This programme will enable partners to consider jointly how to respond to play needs at a local level in Flintshire. More information will be provided about this approach in the presentation to committee. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | No financial implications. |
| 2.02 | Resource time for key staff to attend professional development sessions. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | Ongoing work with Play Wales and Town and Community Council's around Play Sufficiency and local play opportunities. |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | <p>Key Risks and Mitigation</p> <p>(1) The reductions in Council budget will impact on levels of play provision – A strategic approach to play development will enable key priorities to be identified and ensure levels of resource are maximised across partners.</p> |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix A – Play Sufficiency Presentation |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | <p>None</p> <p>Contact Officers: Janet Roberts Telephone: 01352 702456 E-mail: Janet.Roberts2@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | The Right to Play – all children have the right to play as enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. |
| 7.02 | Play Sufficiency Assessment – a Duty to assess Play Opportunities with Statutory Guidance and a toolkit from Welsh Government. |