

The Children and
Young People's
Service

We want all children and
young people to be happy, healthy
and safe with a bright future.

Haringey's Play Strategy 2007



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Introduction

1 This document sets out Haringey's vision and strategy for Play, recognising the importance of play for the individual child and its significance in contributing to the improvements set out in the strategic plan for Children and Young People in Haringey 2006-9: *Changing Lives*.

2 Haringey has a long track record of developing play services and recognises that now is the time to develop a much more strategic partnership approach to improving services for children aged 0-16 years and up to 19 for children with disabilities.

3 Play is an essential part of every child's life. The process of playing is how children engage with their world; it is how they make sense of the things happening in their lives. Play enables children to have fun, relax and enjoy themselves. For children it is something that does not need to be explained, it is something most children just do. Play is one of the key developmental processes that helps to prepare a child for life. It is the main means by how young children learn and provides essential informal learning for older children.

4 Adults often fail to understand the importance of play in a child's life and the critical role it has in helping children's emotional, intellectual and physical development. In social policy terms, play has equally been misunderstood, often seen to be on the margins rather than core to good outcomes for children, and consequently not been a priority for public funding. Children need and want safe, high quality places to play in and a choice of high quality, fun play opportunities, which are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

5 Play is both a process: an end in itself - and a tool for communication, learning, support and social engagement.ⁱ Childhood and the influences upon it in the 21st Century is the subject of increased media attention. There is much concern on the perceived negative effects of the increased amount of time children spend watching television, playing computer games, using mobile phones and less time spent with their friends playing outside the home or other controlled settings.

6 The government has recognised the importance of play. David Lammy, MP, Minister for Culture, stated that, "There is no doubt that over the past few years the importance of play, because of the benefits it can bring to children, has been increasingly recognised." The importance of play is enshrined in Every Child Matters, the Children Act 2004, The Childcare Act 2006 and the Youth Matters Green paper. The Government has recognised the importance of play in a child's life in "Getting Serious About Play" (Department of Media, Culture and Sports (DCMS)) 2004. This strategy, also, reflects the principles of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child; Article 31 (1991).ⁱⁱ

7 Improving and securing children and young people's participation, in hearing what they want, responding to it and involving them in the ongoing development of play opportunities will be one of the key success indicators. We will need to make

sure that we are providing what children say they want, reaching out to children across Haringey's diverse communities to identify the barriers to children's use and participation in play spaces, projects, events and opportunities.

8 We will review how we are progressing annually to measure what impact the strategy is having and the difference it is making on the lives of children, young people, parents and communities. We will use this information to improve and promote children's play by disseminating good practice, working to achieve sustainability of new services and physical improvements. Appendix 1 sets out the national and local context for the strategy, which is supported by a detailed action plan (see Appendix 2 & 3).

The strategic role and vision for play

9 Play has an important strategic role in helping to deliver the outcomes in *Changing Lives*; Haringey's plan for Children and Young People 2006-9. The delivery of integrated services to children and young people is through three Children's Networks, linking strongly with Children's Centres, Extended Schools Out of School Clubs providing Childcare, independent and community providers, Youth Services, Connexions, Youth Justice, Parks, Planning, Health, Arts, Libraries and Sports to build effective universal, sustainable play opportunities to support every child, within an early intervention approach.

10 The value of Play in supporting children, family and community life through this strategy will become integrated into the planning and commissioning of services that best meet the needs of children, family and communities.

11 We recognise the complexity of the benefits that Play provides and have agreed that in order to meet our objectives we must:

- provide opportunities to enhance children's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development;
- enable children to have fun, improve their quality of life and enhance their childhood;
- support children and families requiring childcare, respite for children with disabilities and out of school learning;
- provide a preventative service supporting children at risk of social exclusion, including vulnerable children and their families and engaging the community to feel a sense of ownership and empowerment;
- reach out to Haringey's diverse communities through positive opportunities to engage with children and adults in an informal but supported environments;
- support children as they move through developmental and early adolescent transition stages
- create safe, high quality green and open spaces in which children can play.

The Local Context

12 *Changing Lives* sets out a clear statement of ambition for Haringey's children and young people.

"We want every child and young person in Haringey to be happy, healthy and safe with a bright future. Above all, we want all vulnerable children and young people to get support to enjoy the same opportunities as any other child or young person. "

13 We recognise that Play is integral to achieving this ambition. This Play Strategy sets out our vision for enabling new and improved play opportunities for all children in Haringey, to improve their quality of life and sense of well-being today, giving children a secure foundation.

14 This is a partnership strategy, led by Haringey Council, with the involvement of the broad range of stakeholders engaged with, developing and supporting play opportunities for Haringey's children. We will work with children, young people, parents/carers and local communities to develop a range and choice of high quality play opportunities, which are locally based, inclusive and accessible. This will complement the childcare services (0-14s) ensuring that children's play and care needs are addressed. Children's participation in shaping new play projects will be key, their and local community ownership will be essential in helping to achieve sustainability.

15 We will prioritise developments in geographic areas for groups of children with greatest need. For example, areas with poor or little safe play spaces; estates and areas with particular problems which will benefit from outreach play programmes.

16 We recognise the importance of play opportunities for supporting vulnerable children and communities. We will seek to enhance children's play opportunities as part of the Extended Schools programme, improving the quality of play spaces in school as well as integrating play as an activity and support tool in helping children learn.

17 Play has direct benefits for children, but it also has benefits for the wider community. Children who have high quality safe places to play and a choice of activities to engage with, will be happier and healthier, and function better in all aspects of their lives. Building in the needs of children in housing developments, parks, open spaces and street environments improves the quality of the environment for all. Providing children with a choice of play activities, gives children fun constructive things to do in their leisure time which not just enhances their lives, but provides them with diversionary positive activities.

18 This strategy is integral in helping to achieve three key priorities of *Changing Lives*:

Priority Three – We will improve outcomes for children and young people with disabilities. We will improve further the range of out-of-school activities for children and young people with disabilities, including specialist summer play schemes, and ensure that transport arrangements are effective in giving access.

Priority Ten – We will create more safe places for children to play and for young people to go by working with partners from the Council, the police and the voluntary sector.

Priority Thirteen – We will enable children and young people to enjoy wider opportunities through a broad curriculum and out-of-school learning activities. Ensuring that as many children as possible benefit from high quality play opportunities as a result of our Play Strategy.

Statement of Play Principles

19 These principles underpin the strategy and guide priorities for development and improvement.

Children need to play Children have a natural inclination to play. Play is critically important to children's development, healthy growth, wellbeing, creativity, and ability to learn. Through play, children gain self-confidence, independence and resilience. They access essential information about themselves and the world around them, which helps them cope with difficult and stressful situations, learn skills for social interaction, and fosters social inclusion. While the needs of older children and teenagers are different from those of young children they are no less important.

Children need freedom to play Children engage in play for its own sake, not for any external goal or reward. Children play because they wish to do so, is under their control, is chosen by them and is undertaken solely because it is satisfying: is an outcome in itself. In supervised provision, trained play workers have an important role in supporting and facilitating children to create and explore their own play experiences.

Children need space to play Children need access to a variety of good quality play environments which offer challenge and stimulation. As well as supervised play services, children need access to play at home, and in outdoor unsupervised spaces close to home. General community spaces, such as streets or the spaces between buildings are as important as dedicated play provision.

Children need access to a range of types of play Children need a range and choice of play opportunities. Appendix 4.

Children need time to play Children should have the chance to choose what and where they want to every day, recognising that some children will need

support and facilitation to enable them to play e.g. children with disabilities, chronically sick children.

Children need to feel safe and welcome where they play All communities should have welcoming, accessible space and opportunities for children to play, regardless of physical, social, environmental or personal barriers. Play needs to be diverse, welcoming and accessible to every child irrespective of age, gender, background, origin, individual needs or abilities. There is cultural diversity in the way children play, which has a right to be valued and celebrated. Risk-taking is an essential feature of children and young people's play, which allows them to explore limits, test boundaries, venture into new experiences and develop their capacities and confidence. As well as fostering risk taking, there is a recognition that play environments need to be free from unacceptable risk.

Children know best about play The views, opinions and expertise of children and young people are essential to the development of positive play opportunities. Their active participation in planning, development and evaluation will be essential in ensuring relevancy, maximum use and sustainability of services.

Play is everyone's responsibility Parents/carers, communities, central and local government have a duty to ensure that children are given the support to enable them to play every day.

Play and the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes

20 Play contributes to all of the Every Child Matters five key outcomes

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being.

Being Healthy

21 All children and young people need access to safe, stimulating, outdoor play environments where they can participate in physical activity stay healthy, just by running about and playing. Physical activity is essential to maintaining health in childhood and setting the foundations for health in later life. Physical benefits include reducing risks for heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, hypertension and preventing obesity. Psychological effects include enhanced well-being, prevention and reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety, protection against stress, raising self confidence and self esteem. This will be achieved by:

- increasing the range, choice and quality of play opportunities;

- improving quality of local open spaces, including kick about areas on housing estates;
- open access supervised sport and play programmes on housing estates and parks;
- support to improve transition between play, recreation and youth settings;
- developing a network of accessible, unsupervised play opportunities across the borough.

Stay Safe

22 One of the main reasons children give for not playing outdoors more is that they and their parents are concerned for their safety. Fear of strangers, traffic and bullying by other children combine to keep children in their own homes. Good level and quality of play services helps to protect children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, whilst allowing them the opportunity to challenge themselves and use their initiative. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The aim is to enable children to have access to play opportunities provided in a safe and stimulating environment free from discrimination. This will be achieved by:

- strategies for challenging bullying within play, out of school and community settings;
- well trained and high quality workforce;
- street and open space safety programmes;
- develop core service standards across the sectors, with core training for all “play” staff;
- ensure all “play staff” trained in the Common Assessment Framework.

Enjoy and Achieve

23 Improved play opportunities, including improvements to open and green spaces, housing estates open areas, playgrounds, school play areas etc, in Haringey will enable children and young people to learn, grow and develop through play. Improving the choice of opportunities and spaces where children and young people can engage in physical activity, socialise with their peers, engage with their local neighbourhood, will not only provide them with fun, relaxing and challenging things to do, but will also contribute to their sense of personal achievement and belonging within their community. This will be achieved by:

- increasing the level of play opportunities for children and young people aged 10-13 years during term-time and holiday periods;
- developing a good level of services which meet the needs of disabled children, through the provision of specialist and integrated services offering disabled children a choice of service to meet their needs;
- improving access for older children and teenagers to play opportunities which better provide for gender specific activities;
- increasing the amount of free play provision;

- establishing supervised and unsupervised play provision in areas where there is none;
- integrating play opportunities and processes with extended schools developments;
- using play as a tool to enhance out of school learning opportunities.

Make a Positive Contribution

24 The more that children are able to make decisions about things that affect them, and the more choice and control they have over their everyday lives, the less likely they are to be involved in so-called anti-social behaviour. Good play opportunities are child centred and involve children in shaping, influencing and evaluating the opportunities provided. Giving children and young people a real say in play and youth provision will encourage them to take responsibility for their actions and help to build community cohesion across ages and diverse cultural groups. This will be achieved by:

- raising awareness of the important role of “play” in a child’s life, and the benefits for families and communities by enabling children and young people to have safe, high quality places to play;
- “Championing” and demonstrating the value of “play” as a capacity building tool;
- promoting the Play Strategy, and action needed to meet its objectives
- developing frameworks for direct participation of children, young people and parents/carers in planning and decision making about play policy, strategy and services;
- developing formal frameworks for consultation, involvement and feedback for all stakeholders and partners;
- improving access by improving out-reach and involvement to “hard to reach groups”;
- designing tailor made projects to meet the needs of individual vulnerable children.

Achieve Economic Well Being

25 Play projects can be seen as focal points for communities and can offer opportunities for social interaction for the wider community, supporting the development of a greater sense of community spirit. High quality, accessible play services, which support children in their local communities, needs to be understood and recognised as an important public service. Removal of economic barriers which prevent children accessing services, needs to be addressed. This will be achieved by:

- developing a choice and diversity of locally based free play opportunities out of school hours, term time, school holidays, evenings and week-ends;
- ensuring longer term and more stable funding arrangements to ensure sustainability;

- involvement of children, young people, parents/carers and local communities in the development and delivery of services;
- integrating the Play Strategy across the range of policies and strategies shaping services and outcomes for children in Haringey;
- developing new models of play services which are responsive and flexible to children's needs across age and stage of development.

Working in Partnership to Deliver the Strategy

26 The following key themes are priorities for future development.

Improve access and opportunities for Disabled Children and Young People – the evidence gathered tells us that there is an insufficient level of play opportunities to meet the needs of disabled children and young people: improving the quality and level of services to meet their needs is therefore a priority, through a partnership and commissioning approach. Work will continue in further developing holiday play opportunities offering positive play and care opportunities, as well as identifying the appropriate type and level of play services required by disabled children and their parents after school hours. Training needs of play and youth workers will be addressed.

More opportunities for older children and teenagers – working with the Youth Service to identify the unmet needs of children aged between 9-13, consult with and involve children in the type and choice of play opportunities they would like to see provided, both supervised and non-supervised; develop estate based play opportunities reaching out to children not accessing any mainstream services, explore the development of an outreach, transitions team of play and youth workers, identifying need, working with children, parents and local communities to provide tailored made services to suit different groups of children in different localities

Raising the profile of Play – ensuring that 'play' is put at the core of developing integrated services, put a Play Champion in place who's brief is to champion, identify, advise and support the development of policy and practice to develop and sustain Play as an important element in strategic planning and commissioning of children's services

Improve Children and Young People's participation on shaping, reviewing and evaluating Play strategies and services -consultations/discussions with children showed that they want to own their spaces and want to have a say in how they are developed. Adults often assume that children will want certain facilities and these can often be wrong, the development of any future play provision must be on the basis of the widest possible consultation and participation of children and young people; develop best practice on achieving children's participation; provide training for all staff working with children on how to achieve good child participation.

Secure the involvement of inspirational and committed adults in engaging with children to improve safety and quality of play environments, appropriate to children's age and stage of development – play opportunities need to be tailored to the age and stage of development of individual and groups of children recognising children's desire for more independence as they move through childhood.

Review existing council play services - ensuring that the services provided are located in the most appropriate place, are inclusive, meet the needs of the community, and well maintained. This may include disposal and decommissioning of redundant play spaces and playgrounds to reinvest in new or remaining well used spaces as well as reprovisioning services with the development of the Extended Schools and Children's Centres programme.

Planning and commissioning improved play services – quality play areas and open spaces should be seen as important and a priority when developing new residential areas. Haringey Council will work towards ensuring that play services and informal play spaces will be factored into all new developments, through a Planning Guidance Standard in line with the recommendation outlined in the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance issued by the Greater London Authority.

As part of the planning process, a local planning authority and a developer may enter into a legal agreement to provide infrastructure and services on or off the development site where this is not possible through planning conditions. This agreement, known also as a Section 106 agreement, is a delivery mechanism for the matters that are necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms. Planning agreements have become increasingly important to the provision of public services including highways, recreational facilities, education, health and affordable housing. [Securing community benefits through the planning process – *Improving performance on Section 106 agreements, Audit Commission Report, August 2006*]

Improved and locally accessible informal and formal play spaces within or close to the neighbourhoods where children live – children and young people should not have to travel beyond their local community to access play opportunities. Locally based services will enable greater accessibility and inclusion, contributing to development of community cohesion, using Play as a capacity building tool.

Improve inter-generational understanding and engagement – change and improve the attitudes of adults towards children's play activities and right to play spaces – older people have shown in recent surveys a fear of crime by older children and young people. With an overemphasis in the media on the minority of children who engage in anti-social behaviour, adults need to have a better understanding of the needs of older children and young people: identify inter-generational projects to help promote and develop mutual understanding and support.ⁱⁱⁱ

Identify play opportunities to improve health – by engaging with health agencies, voluntary sector and schools develop a set of health activities and outcomes to improve health and contribute to reducing health inequalities; put health improvements as a core outcome of all play opportunities.

Develop play opportunities to support vulnerable children and communities at risk – by developing tailored made packages of care and play support, mainstream play and youth workers have traditionally worked as bridge and brokers for vulnerable children, often developing strong trusting relationships with vulnerable children, families and communities: these have the potential to be used to better effect with stronger outcomes and evaluation, play and youth workers have great potential to make a strong contribution both in providing play opportunities to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and in using their communication skills to help engage with children not accessing play and youth services.

The Role of Key Partners and Agencies

The Local Authority

27 A key issue raised in the audit is the question of where lead responsibility for play should be located. Research evidence demonstrates that play is essential for children's development and also helps to support families, strengthen communities and address social exclusion. Its role is key in helping to achieve the Every Child Matters agenda, improve the quality of life for children, families and help achieve sustainable communities. Without a clear strategic lead being designated, the aspirations outlined will not be realised. Haringey Local Authority recognises it is the lead partner in the strategic development of play and whilst this function may reside in the Children and Young People's Service it has a whole Authority brief, to ensure a strategic and integrated approach.

28 Haringey will take the opportunity provided by the Big Lottery Fund [BLF] programme to improve the planning, commissioning and delivery of play policy, strategy and services across the borough. A 'Play Champion' based in the Children and Young People's Service will carry out this task, helping to ensure the success of the BLF-funded projects and to tie them in with other local authority functions which affect children and young people. All funded projects will be expected to continue after the BLF programme ceases: so achieving integration and sustainability will be essential. Play projects, like other socially inclusive community based services, are unlikely to be able to generate significant income. One of the conditions of the BLF is that services should be free of charge.

29 Sustainability will only be achieved if projects are owned by the local community and developed in partnership with a network of stakeholders. Demonstrating how proposals and plans fit and engage with other local services, plans and strategies will be crucial to this. Local programme plans and project

proposals should show how the BLF funding complements and augments other expenditure, and how projects will be supported once the BLF money runs out.

Schools

30 The Extended Services in and around schools agenda, has an important role to play in making school facilities and resources available for use by local children and young people outside core school hours. A significant number of Haringey schools now have in place a range of out of school hours' recreational activities. The Local Authority is committed to working with its schools to extend the choice and range of extended services on offer, to support children through the provision of a wide range of fun out of school learning opportunities, using play as a tool to help engage and support. We recognise that through using play as a tool of engagement there is great potential to better support children at risk of exclusion. We will further explore developing fun, exciting learning through play programmes, to support and enhance children's reading skills.

Haringey Play Service

31 Haringey Play Service operates play projects across the borough after school hours: term time and school holidays for children aged between 4-12 years. The service provided is a valuable one, providing childcare, play and family support. The strategic objectives outlined above are core to the aims, values and purpose of the Play Service. It provides a key strategic childcare service helping Haringey meet its requirements under the Childcare Act 2006 as well as meeting the outcomes set out in Every Child Matters.

32 With the National Extended Schools agenda the Play Service needs to take account of new developments that support children's play. Partnership working with schools is important alongside the Local Authority's strategic role in the planning and commissioning of childcare and play services within schools, to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the provision and agree on who is best placed to deliver local services.

33 The Play Service will be part of the new Childcare Commissioning arrangements required under the Childcare Act 2006, to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for children aged between 0-14 years whose parents require it. It is recognised within this Strategy that in some cases there may be a need to rationalise some of the existing council play facilities, through extended partnership and commissioning arrangements, with possible relocation of services and development in areas with unmet need.

Haringey Youth Service

34 The vision for the Service is that it works towards enabling young people to develop their knowledge, skills and values to widen their experiences and understanding and to realise their aspirations through fun and safe learning

opportunities. The Service will realise its vision by working in collaboration with partners in the Children's Networks and in particular with schools, Neighbourhood Management and the Youth Offending Service.

35 The Youth Service in Haringey works with 11-25 year olds, specifically targeting 13-19 year olds and aims to provide:

- opportunities for social, political and personal development;
- opportunities to engage in governance, citizenship and decision making;
- opportunities for educational attainment, accreditation and achievement;
- a diverse range of creative and challenging developmental experiences.

36 The Service operates out of seven centres, which include the newly refurbished Bruce Grove and the purpose built Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre. The Service also has a detached team operating in 9 locations throughout an average week. The work of the team has been augmented by 3 mobile units, 1 of which is being managed by the voluntary sector.

37 The Service recognises the importance of play and recreational activities in the lives of teenagers and young adults and is committed to working with its partners to develop high quality provision across the borough.

Voluntary and Community Organisations

38 The Local Authority recognises the important role of the voluntary and community sector in delivering open access and supervised play opportunities across Haringey. A stronger partnership framework is required. The Local Authority will work with the voluntary and community sector to strengthen partnership working. The role of the voluntary and community sector is key to helping build capacity in neighbourhoods to identify solutions to meet local need. Supporting voluntary and community projects, through strategic advice and support, advising on the development of sound governance and business practices to enable them to access new grants and commissioning funds will be key.

Haringey Play Sub-Group

39 Haringey Play Sub-Group aims to bring together all those in the statutory and voluntary sectors with an interest in play and to "champion" play across the borough. The Sub-Group provides a means of involving all interested parties in developing play strategically across the borough and it is recognised that as part of their remit they will monitor the implementation of the Play Strategy Action Plan.

Appendix 1 National and Local Context

The UK is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31 recognises the rights of children to rest and leisure; to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age; and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Central government has recognised the need for play through the Children Act 2004, recognising that the enjoyment of recreation, including play, is one of the key outcomes for children that authorities are required to consider in drawing up and coordinating their Children's Plans. It is recognised that the need to make better provision for play cuts across a range of policy areas that include planning, open spaces, transport, health, education and childcare.

In 2005, a Play Charter was adopted by key agencies including the Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Barnardos; the Children's Play Council; Kidsactive; Learning Through Landscapes; London Play; Mayor of London; Mencap; National Children's Bureau; National Youth Agency and NCH. Haringey's Statement of Play Principles reflect this play charter

In recognition of the fundamental importance of play, in 2004, the Mayor of London issued a children and young people's strategy called "Making London Better for All Children and Young People" which includes his policy on play, and was followed up in 2005 by guidance for local authorities on the development of play strategies.

Within this, it is highlighted that "there is increasing evidence that children's play opportunities are under threat....consequences – real and potential – both for their immediate quality of life and their long term health and development are serious". This is found to disproportionately affect children in cities; disabled children; children from particular ethnic minority groups, and those with other social and economic disadvantages.

Identifying the Local Context

Two local voluntary sector organisations, Haringey Play Association and Markfield, were commissioned by the London Borough of Haringey in March 2006, to conduct an audit of supervised play and youth provision for children aged 0-19. The audit's purpose was to gather information about the amount and range of supervised play opportunities, any gaps in provision, and the quality of provision available.

In April 2006, an audit of unsupervised play facilities and spaces was also completed, by Ashley Godfrey Associates on behalf of LB Haringey Recreation Services, measuring the quantity and quality and accessibility of children's equipped playing space.

Both audits also considered risk issues such as bullying, discrimination, and whether children feel safe and welcome to use available provision.

To understand local issues, the Play Strategy also drew upon the outcomes of a number of consultations, for example, Lordship Recreation Ground, Chestnuts Park, Stationers Park, Finsbury Park and Northumberland Park consultations; Tenants Participation Consultation that included issues of play provision and accessing provision and resources for young people; Children and Young People's Plan consultation with young people; consultation with children using playscheme provision; and Viewpoint interactive consultation with young people.

The strategy has also been informed by other local strategy documents such as the Unitary Development Plan; "*Changing Lives*" the Haringey Children and Young People's Plan 2006-9; the Open Space Strategy 2005; and "Growing up in Haringey" The Haringey Health Report 2005.

Drawing together information from these audits and consultations, the following local themes were identified.

The number of children and young people who need to access play opportunities locally

The approximate numbers of children living in Haringey in 2005 (GLA Population Predictions 2003) were: 0-4: 17,500, 5-11: 19,000, 12-18: 18,500; and predicts that the numbers will have risen by 2010 to: 0-4: 19,000, 5-11: 21,000; 12-18: 18,500.

By definition, all children in the Borough have access to unsupervised play, however the extent and ease of access and the range of accessible play environments is significantly better in some parts of the Borough than others. It is currently very difficult to assess the number of children who need to access *supervised* play and youth provision because waiting lists are not kept by all providers, making it impossible to define how many children and parents/carers are requesting a service.

The play audit found that only 4 out of 41 providers for supervised play for 3-12 year olds kept detailed waiting lists and were holding 203 children on their lists for periods ranging from 6 months to over a year. For youth providers only 6 were able to give details. They were holding a total of 247 young people on their lists. These figures indicate the substantial need for additional provision.

Availability of unsupervised play opportunities for children and young people

Open space distribution in Haringey

Haringey Council commissioned Atkins consultants in 2002 to carry out an assessment of open space, outdoor and indoor sports facilities within the borough. This provided recommendations which informed the Open Space Strategy 'A space for everyone' which was produced in 2005 by Recreation Services.

The amount and type of public open space in Haringey is shown in the table below.

Type	No of open spaces	Total Hectares
Regional Park	1	12.29
Metropolitan park	3	141.83
District park	3	68.92
Linear open space	2	15.72
Local park	20	113.48
Small local park and open space	32	30.63
Total	61	382.87ha

Although not included in the above totals, housing open land covers 54.72ha in Haringey.

The report identified that a number of areas within Haringey are deficient in public open space. This is defined as areas which are further than 280m from any form of public open space. Those areas of the borough which are deficient in public open space (in order of size of deficiency) include:

- Area 1 - Northumberland Park;
- Area 2 - Parts of White Hart Lane Ward;
- Area 3 - Parts of Bounds Green Ward;
- Area 4 - Parts of Fortis Green and Alexandra Wards;
- Area 5 - Parts of Highgate Ward;
- Area 6 - Parts of Crouch End Ward;
- Area 7 - Parts of Noel Park Ward;
- Area 8 - Parts of St Ann's, Harringay and Seven Sisters Wards;

- Area 9 - Parts of Bruce Grove and Tottenham Green Wards;
- Area 10 - East of Seven Sisters Ward.

There are 1.7ha of public open space per 1000 population in the Borough compared to the NPFA (National Playing Fields Association) standard of 2.43ha, demonstrating that Haringey is below the recommended standards of green space. However, the distribution of open space varies significantly across the wards.

Open spaces classified as above average condition are concentrated in the west of the borough particularly in Highgate ward. Although open spaces with below average condition are distributed evenly across the borough, it is important to note that those in the west include privately owned and managed sites which are currently not in use. In the east of the borough, 95% of below average sites are public open spaces with significant potential for improvement and are mostly concentrated in the wards of Woodside and West Green.

Unsupervised play provision in Haringey

Playgrounds in public open spaces are the only ones that are free and have open access to all every day of the year. For this reason, the playgrounds in Haringey's parks are a well used community resource.

Research undertaken on behalf of Recreation Services by Ken Macanespie Associates indicates that using the playground is the second most popular reason for visiting a park and that this group (playground users) use parks more frequently than any other category of user.

The unsupervised play audit was undertaken in March 2006 which assessed the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of equipped play areas in housing areas and parks in Haringey. Haringey's Revised Deposit Unitary Development Plan recognises that

“everybody in the borough should have good access to well-maintained, good quality, **and** sustainable open space” (section 7.2), and that

“play spaces and open spaces predominantly for the benefit of children are often undervalued, and as such have been seen as a disposable resource. However, there continues to be a shortage of both supervised and unsupervised play spaces throughout the borough. It is important that adequate, suitable and safe play spaces for children are not unduly lost from the borough, and that new areas are provided where additional development creates a demand for them”. (section 8.32).

This is echoed in the Open Space Strategy which recognises that open space, both within parks and on housing estates, provides major opportunities for both fixed play and informal play provision and that visiting a playground is one of the principal reasons for visiting a park (point 2.15). The provision of play areas in Haringey parks is as follows –

- 29% of small local parks
- 55% of local parks
- 67% of district parks (Lordship Recreation Ground, Highgate Woods & Tottenham Marsh)
- 67% of metropolitan parks (Finsbury Park, Alexandra Park and Queens Wood)

A small number of open spaces are used predominantly for children's play namely Stationers Park, Hartington Park, Paignton Park, Somerford Grove and Falkland/Fairfax Open Space. Bruce Castle, Downhills and Priory Parks also attract a significant number of visitors for children's play. The distribution of play areas in Haringey is shown in the table below.

Ward	Total population	No. play areas	No. items of equipment	Sq. m of play area	Play areas per 000 child population aged 0-16 years
Alexandra	10474	3	30	6473	1.33
Bounds Green	10902	3	20	1100	1.36
Bruce Grove	11993	4	16	670	1.39
Crouch End	10758	0	0	0	0.00
Fortis Green	11242	0	0	0	0.00
Harringay	10527	8	76	6396	5.11
Highgate	10306	2	43	3045	1.33
Hornsey	10078	2	27	1971	0.95
Muswell Hill	9969	1	3	132	0.51
Noel Park	11468	2	14	1324	0.86

Northumberland Park	12602	1 1	52	26 33 .5	3.15
Seven Sisters	13175	1 4	122	96 98	3.88
St. Anns	12601	1 2	75	34 62 .5	4.69
Stroud Green	10327	1 0	73	48 33	5.47
Tottenham Green	11971	8	42	23 89	2.84
Tottenham Hale	12731	1 0	69	45 99	2.87
West Green	11888	1 2	65	10 00 3	4.16
White Hart Lane	11983	4	35	52 36	1.19
Woodside	11496	3	20	10 37	1.22
Total Haringey	216491	1 0 9	782	65 00 2	2.31

It is notable that there are 2 wards with no playgrounds at all (Crouch End and Fortis Green). In addition, Noel Park ward has particularly poor provision with only two playgrounds, but a further 2 are being constructed this summer in the Park.

The average for the borough is 17 items per 1000 children. Close to the average, but just below it, are Northumberland Park and Tottenham Green. Well below the average are the wards with no playgrounds mentioned above and Muswell Hill, Noel Park and Bruce Grove. Below average provision exists in Bounds Green, White Hart Lane, and Woodside.

There is considerable variation in quality within most of the wards in Haringey. Seven Sisters and Haringey have some excellent provision especially the new play areas in Finsbury Park (100% score for quality), and also the new provision at Fladbury Road, Moreton Road, Plevna Crescent and Osman Close. However, those playgrounds that are within estates will only serve the residents of that estate.

Some of the poorest quality playgrounds are found in St. Ann's and Tottenham Green, with the lowest scoring park playground in Markfield Park (46% quality score) and housing playground at Legat Court in St. Ann's (23% quality score). Even though most of the parks in the west of the borough have been given high scores for quality, it is worth noting that because of the age of some of the play equipment it is coming

to the end of its life. For example, the playgrounds in Priory and Stationers Parks have received good quality scores and are extremely popular with the local community; however, recent health and safety inspections indicate that they will need replacing in the near future.

The families that use park playgrounds on a regular basis feel a degree of ownership for the sites. There have been recent consultations to develop new and improved playgrounds in Chestnuts, Lordship and Stationers Parks. Recreation Services will be looking for external funding to provide the capital for these works.

Accessibility

The Atkins assessment concluded that 32% of open spaces have a physical barrier of access for pedestrians, cyclists and people with mobility difficulties. These take the form of locked gates, lack of pathways, steps, 'no cycle' signs and uneven surfaces or pathways in need of maintenance.

A large proportion of Haringey's parks playgrounds are over 15 years old and therefore have varying surface levels as these were popular at the time. Priory, Stationers and Chestnuts Parks are particularly affected by this problem. New playgrounds are designed to comply with DDA legislation. Another problem in parks is the use of bark as a safety surface material. When new playgrounds are installed, wet pour surfacing is used, but in the older playgrounds the use of bark was common and this can be an obstacle to users with mobility problems.

Crime, safety and security issues

The Council's Safer Communities Partnership has identified crime hotspots within the borough as part of their crime and disorder audit. Most crime occurs in and around town centres in the east of the borough. There is a correlation between these crime hotspots and the quality classifications of 'below average' open spaces. It is important to note that crime hotspots are concentrated in areas lacking open space, e.g. Noel Park ward, whilst open spaces which do fall within a crime hotspot area are generally considered to be below average in quality.

Sense of Safety and Security assessment of Haringey's parks

Sense of Safety and Security	No. of Open Spaces	% of all Open Space
Good	27	25
Fair	71	66
Poor	10	9.
TOTAL	108	100.00

Safety and Security Issues assessment in Haringey's parks

Security issue	No. open spaces	% open spaces
Open spaces with CCTV	9	9
Open spaces overlooked by properties	57	54
Open spaces more isolated	39	37

The residents' survey which was carried out as part of the Atkins assessment, recognised safety and security issues as being the most common reason for non-use of open spaces, specifically the presence of undesirable characters and feelings of vulnerability. Nearly a third (31%) of all non-users avoid public open spaces due to perceptions associated with the fear of crime.

When designing a new playground in a park, its location is always taken into consideration. Children like to play where they feel safe and there is a sense of being 'overlooked' by adults. For example, the new playground for older children which is being installed in Noel Park this summer has been specifically located in the park where natural surveillance can be provided by general park users. Playgrounds on housing estates are often perceived as being 'safe' as they are closer to children's homes and often overlooked by neighbouring properties.

Home Zones

Home Zones are streets where people of all ages share the traditional road space safely with vehicles. In September 2002 Haringey Council through consultation and evaluation responded to local residents' request for a home zone in Linden Road. Linden Road became a designated Home Zone in the autumn of 2004. Linden Road is within West Green Ward. In the DTLR Index of Multiple Deprivation West Green ranked 857 out of 8, 414.

The Home Zone discourages unnecessary traffic within the road by careful design and speed reducing features and other measures to reduce the dominance of traffic.

The aim is to support community concerns on the safety of the road and to enable children to play on the street safely. However, improving safety is only one aspect of the scheme. The objectives for the Home Zone include engendering greater community spirit by encouraging more outdoor living, creating more greenery and a general aim of reducing the dominance of the car within the street. Further consideration needs to be given to where other Home Zones can be developed.

Availability of supervised play places

The audit of supervised play provision conducted in March 2006 provided a vast amount of valuable information. It was however, difficult to give fully accurate numbers of places available and being used by children because:

- contact information about voluntary and community sector services provided by groups who were not primarily play organisations was difficult to obtain;
- holiday providers were unable to confirm how many places they could offer because of insecure funding arrangements. This was particularly true for voluntary and community sector providers who often did not have funding for playschemes confirmed until shortly before each scheme;
- drop ins, by their nature, were unable to provide accurate figures of numbers of children using them, and so it was only possible to measure the number of providers.

What is clear is that only a very small percentage of children are currently able to access provision. It appears that less than 8% of 3-12 year olds and 5% of 11-19s are using after school club supervised provision; and even fewer children and young people are accessing supervised play in school holidays. Despite this, many providers including some local authority play centres are currently offering fewer places than their Ofsted registration allows.

Purpose of supervised provision on offer

During the audit, providers expressed widely varying beliefs and understanding of what children's play needs are, and the purpose of their provision. For instance different local authority play centres described their purpose as: "playing and learning and help with homework"; "opportunities for play in a safe and friendly environment to help children build self esteem and awareness of life" ; "supportive environment for children to have fun and relax"; "looking after children of working parents"; "social skills, discipline, education." Similar variances were found between the different local authority youth services. Without a consensus about what needs the centres are trying to meet it is difficult to define how many children and young people in Haringey need a play service and for what purpose.

Amongst targeted services for disabled children there was a more consistent purpose, with the majority providers from across all sectors, in agreement that their primary purpose was to promote social inclusion and access to community

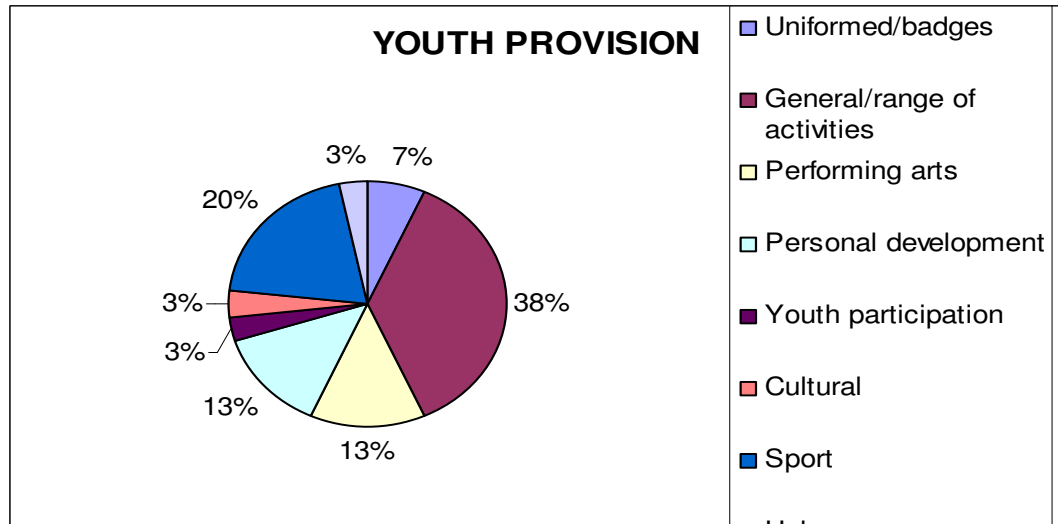
opportunities for disabled children, no matter what play and youth medium they were using to do this.

Type of activities on offer

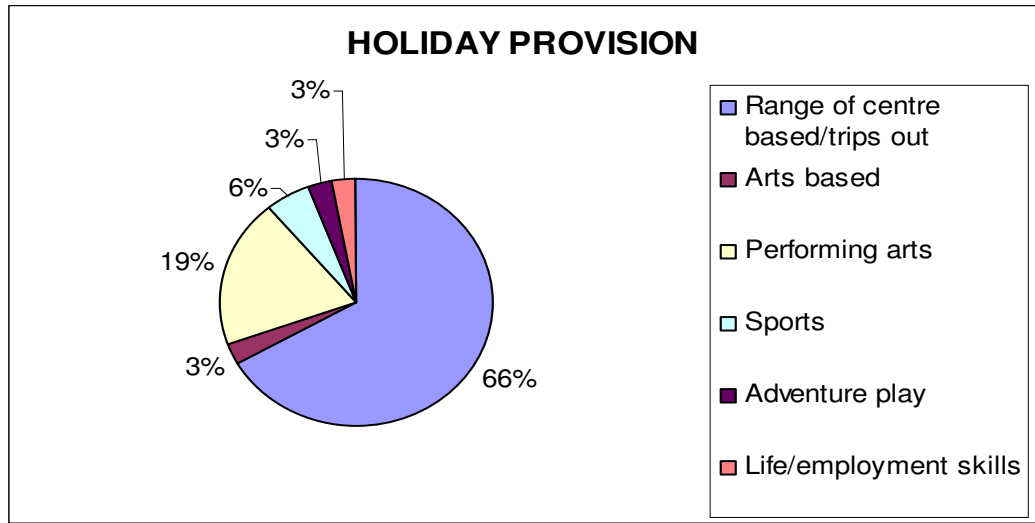
3-12s supervised term time play: the majority of play providers providing full time play places for the 3-12s age range report that they offer a wide range of play activities, with children able to choose between varied activities each evening.

The part time places for this age range tend to offer more targeted provision such as performing arts; sports; or culturally based activities. Only two providers were able to offer supervised, outdoor, adventure play structures.

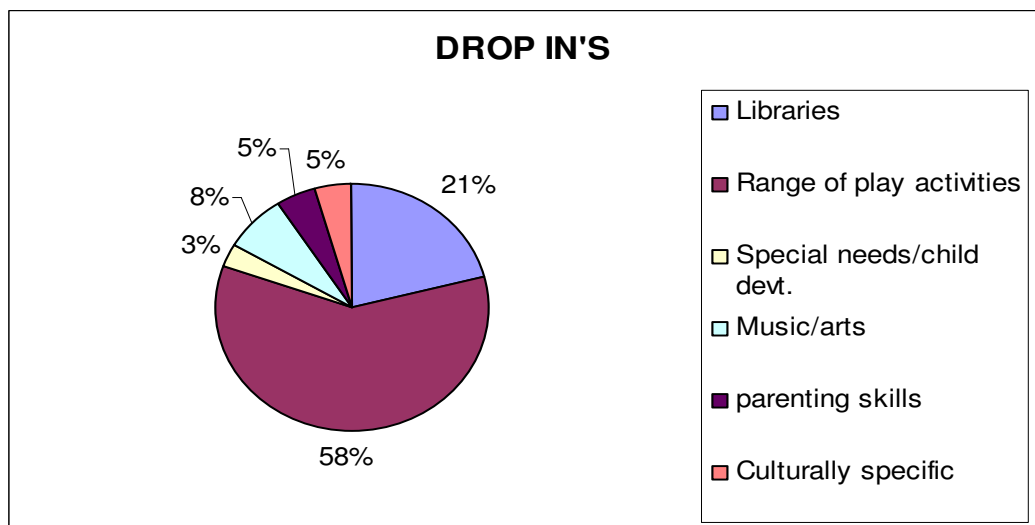
Youth provision: tended to offer more targeted provision, as follows:



Holiday provision offered the following range of activities:



Drop in play was focused on:

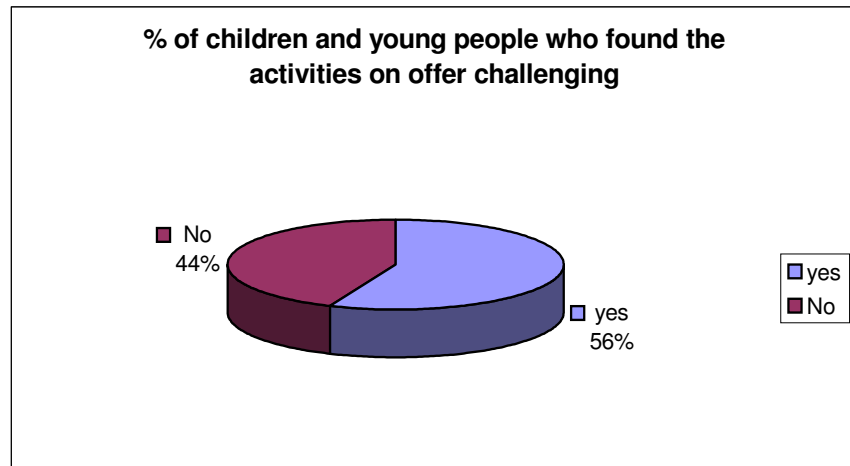


In all of these types of provision it is difficult to define what people mean when they describe offering a wide range of activities, and there is very varied approach to children's choices of activities. Similarly, the range and choice of activity available in each setting will be partly dependant on the facilities available. The audit has not gone as far as auditing the play environments and the play types that children are able to access in them.

The above graphs compare favourably with the feedback from the Early Years & Play – Summer Feedback Report 2005 and 2006. The graph below reflects the views of children and young people as to the types of activities they would like to see on offer. For example, 34% of children and young people surveyed were happy and thought

that play centres had adequate equipment compared to 66% who thought that centres could do with more equipment and resources including equipment such as:

- more swings and slides
- snooker tables
- swimming pools
- footballs, basketballs, tennis balls and rackets
- arts and crafts
- hula-hoops
- better playgrounds and play facilities
- bikes (including mopeds & motor bikes)
- roller skates
- climbing frames
- video games including play station and x-box
- football pitch.



Most of the younger children found the activities challenging, and some of the older continuing children thought that they had done it before and it became easier for them. When asked *'What would make your area a better place for children and young people?'* The following responses were noted:

- more parks and places for young children to play in
- cleaner and safer environment
- more space in the playground.

Accessibility

Ethnicity and culture

Haringey is very ethnically diverse, particularly amongst its young people, with only 38% of the under 25s population at the 2001 census reporting as White British. There are a wide range of ethnicities, with larger populations of White British; Other White; Black African; Black Caribbean; and significant populations of Asian and Chinese ethnicity. The “Other White” and “Other” categories of ethnicity are not broken down further within the data, but it is significant that the second most common language spoken in the borough is Turkish. The wards in the East of the borough are most ethnically diverse. The following are some of the characteristics:

- centres in the east have about 45% White UK users compared to centres in the west;
- Black African and Black African Caribbean users represent about 35-45% of users in the majority of services;
- a very small percentage of Asian, Turkish, Vietnamese and Chinese are users, ranging from 0-5%;
- the majority of centres report a small percentage of users with mixed ethnicity, or “other”, ranging from 2-10%.
- 7 centres specifically noted difficulties in access for Turkish and Asian children; and Kurdish, Somalian, and Orthodox Jewish communities were mentioned by two providers each as having difficulties accessing services.

Age

Most providers were unable to provide accurate statistical data on the actual ages of children using their provision. However, the following themes did emerge:

- age boundaries for provision vary considerably. For instance, even within local authority supervised play settings, age ranges vary between 3-8, 4-11, 4-12 and 5-12. This can mean different levels of access, and gaps in provision for children of particular ages, dependant on which centre they live close to.
- age boundaries for holiday provision are particularly variable, and there appears to be an evident gap in holiday provision for young people over the age of 13, with only 13 out of 50 holiday providers accepting young people over this age, and all extended day holiday places being provided for children under 12.
- there is also a sharp fall in the number of supervised term time places for children once they reach 13, and the number of full time after school places particularly drops off once children reach secondary school age.

Gender

Mainstream youth services appear to be used by more boys than girls; only two of the seven interviewed reported an even split of boys and girls, and one of these was providing separate gender clubs. The remainder reported splits of 70-80% boys and 20-30% girls.

Another centre has more boys than girls in its mixed session and has set up a girls' only session: "there's a need particularly with Asian girls whose parents/carers prefer them not to socialise with boys. Other girls also like it. They say at mixed clubs boys dominate the activities such as the pool table and they are more comfortable dancing and talking about women's issues by themselves".

Disability

There were 521 children with disabilities on the voluntary register held by Haringey Council as of August 2005. Given that this is a voluntary register, this does not include all of the disabled children living in the borough. Of the school population 1270 has a statement of special educational need (Changing Lives p 4).

Under the Children Act 1989, all disabled children are defined as "in need". Consequently it would be expected that a high proportion of disabled children would be accessing play provision. Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 there is a requirement that services run in such a way that it is not impossible or unreasonably difficult for a disabled person to use them. However:

- the majority of holiday places available to children in the borough are for extended day places, offered through all school holidays. (The audit was only able to identify one to two disabled children accessing this type of provision across 21 non-targeted providers). In comparison, the provision targeted for disabled children included no extended day provision and there were no places available for all school holidays;
- the majority of term time after school play provision for 3-12 year olds is for five days a week. In comparison, the majority of places being offered to disabled children across all age ranges was for one evening per week only;
- approximately 258 disabled children are using targeted holiday provision, and as already indicated, there are very few using other provision. This would suggest that only half the registered disabled children in the borough are able to access even part time holiday provision;
- there is a particular shortage of holiday places for children in the younger age range, and only 59 disabled children aged 3-12 are accessing after school play provision, despite the fact that 46% of registered disabled children are aged 5-11 ("Growing up in Haringey" Haringey Health Report 2005 p 26);
- transport is identified as one of the most significant barriers for disabled children in accessing the provision that is currently able to meet the needs of disabled children;

- less than half the targeted disability providers hold waiting list data, but amongst the six providers that do, there are 340 disabled children currently waiting for a play service.

Geography

Wards with the largest number and proportion of children are all in the East of the borough, particularly Seven Sisters; Northumberland Park; Tottenham Hale; and White Hart Lane. It is predicted that growth in numbers of children by 2010, will predominantly be seen in the South East of the borough, and particularly in Noel Park, Harringay and Tottenham Green.

Socio economic

There are many indicators which identify Haringey as having significantly higher poverty and deprivation levels than nationally. Indices of multiple deprivation show that most of Northumberland Park and parts of Bruce Grove, Tottenham Green, Seven Sisters, White Hart Lane, Noel Park and Harringay are among the 5% most deprived areas in the country (Children's Playing Space Audit p5). The percentage of children living with a lone parent (33%) is significantly higher in Haringey than in London as a whole, and in the rest of England. The percentage of families eligible for free school meals is more than twice the national average. There are particularly high proportions of eligible families in the North East (46.4%) and South East(43%). The wards with highest numbers are Northumberland Park and White Hart Lane, with next highest being Woodside; Noel Park; Tottenham Hale; Tottenham Green and St Anns. 15% of children live in a family where no parent is working (Changing Lives p4).

The audit found that there is a lack of consistency in pricing and concessionary rates for supervised play provision and that very few of the full time providers were offering free play provision. It was noted that this is a particular problem for families with several children. The proportion of families with more than one child is higher in Seven Sisters and Northumberland Park so that the fees for play services are likely to have a greater negative impact in these areas.

The play audit identified numerous centres that are not able to offer the full number of places they are registered for. Whilst for most of the voluntary sector providers this was related to insecure funding arrangements, for several local authority play centres it was about a drop in the number of children using centres, particularly in school holidays, since fees were raised, and there were no longer concessions where more than one child attends from the same family.

Quality

There are wide discrepancies in staffing ratios between different providers and the amount of training accessed. Different providers took very varying approaches to children's participation although there were some examples of very good practice in relation to proactive participation by children. Varying standards and inconsistency between providers was noted in relation to inducting children into centres and

supporting them in transitions between different play services, in approaches to bullying although there were some examples of good practice in proactive work to promote positive behaviour and challenge. The use of regular and formal quality assurance standards was inconsistent. Clearly substantial work to create a more consistent quality across all providers is required.

Appendix 2: Key objectives and priorities

- 1. To raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of play for child development and of children and young people's needs and rights to play:**
 - b) to raise awareness of the Play Strategy, and the benefits of play for children, families and local communities; of the action needed by all key stakeholders
 - c) to increase knowledge and understanding of play with a commitment to meeting children's needs and rights to play within the community
 - d) to ensure that the Play Strategy links in with local and national strategies

- 2. To increase participation of children, young people, parents/carers and other stakeholders in planning and decision making about play**
 - a) to develop frameworks for direct participation of children, young people and parents/carers in planning and decision making about play
 - b) to develop formal frameworks for consultation, involvement and feedback to all stakeholders

- 3. To develop a strong and sustainable partnership approach to increasing the quantity, quality, type and choice of locally based supervised and non-supervised inclusive play opportunities, meeting the unmet needs and service gaps as identified in the play audits (April 2006).**
 - a) to maintain and increase the amount of supervised play opportunities in the borough
 - b) to increase the level of play opportunities for disabled children during term-time and holiday periods
 - c) to increase the level of play opportunities for children and young people aged 10-13 years during term-time and holiday periods
 - d) to improve access to youth services providing for gender specific activities
 - e) to increase the variety and types of play opportunities available to children and young people in the borough

- 4. To improve the quality of local play spaces and structures**
 - a) to introduce quality assurance systems that ensure local provision meets children's needs and contributes to the five outcomes from "Every Child Matters", and to improve consistency of quality between settings
 - b) to improve the ability to include and reach all children

Appendix 3 Play Types (from Mayor of London's Guide to preparing play strategies)

1. **Symbolic play:** Play which allows control, gradual exploration and increased understanding, without the risk of being out of one's depth.
2. **Rough and tumble play:** Close encounter play which is less to do with fighting and more to do with touching, tickling, gauging relative strength, discovering physical flexibility and the fun of display, eg. wrestling and chasing.
3. **Socio-dramatic play:** Acting out real and potential experiences of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature. For example, playing at house, going to the shops, being mothers and fathers.
4. **Social play:** Play where rules for social interaction can be revealed, explored and changed, eg. games or conversations.
5. **Creative play:** play allowing a new response, changing information, awareness of new connections, with an element of surprise. For instance, enjoying creation for its own sake, with a range of materials and tools.
6. **Communication play:** Play using words, nuances or gestures. For example, mime, jokes, play-acting, singing, debate, poetry.
7. **Dramatic play:** Play dramatising events in which the child is not a direct participant. For example, presentation of a TV show, an event on the street, a religious or festive event.
8. **Deep play:** Play which allows the child to try risky experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear, eg. using an aerial runway.
9. **Exploratory play:** Play such as handling, throwing, banging or mouthing objects to get information about them, what they are made of, what they can do.
10. **Fantasy play:** Play which rearranges the world in the child's way, a way which is unlikely to occur. For example, playing at being a pilot.
11. **Imaginative play:** Play where conventional physical rules do not apply. For example pretending to be a tree or ship, or patting an imaginary dog.
12. **Locomotor play:** Movement for its own sake, eg. tag, climbing.
13. **Mastery play:** Control of the environment, eg digging holes, constructing shelters, building fires, changing the courses of streams.
14. **Object play:** Examination and novel use of objects using lots of different movements and hand-eye manipulation.
15. **Role Play:** Play exploring ways of being, eg brushing with a broom, dialling a phone, driving a car.

Appendix 4 Key Stakeholders

- Children, young people and parents/carers
- Residents Associations and community wardens
- MPs and councillors with lead responsibility for areas related to play, ie Environment and Conservation; Community Involvement; Health and Social Services; Enterprise and Regeneration; Children and Young People; Community Safety
- Children's Service – Director The Children and Young People's Service; Head of Children's Network(s) and Extended Schools and Play; Children and Families
- Youth Service
- Connexions
- Haringey Play Service
- Children's Fund
- Under 5s and Childcare Forum
- Haringey Information Service
- Sure Start local programmes
- Children's Centre Managers
- Schools and school heads and governors
- Equalities and Diversity Division
- Haringey Neighbourhood Management
- Planning Homes for Haringey
- Environmental Services – Road Safety
- Highways
- Recreation Services; Parks; Leisure
- Mental Health Trust
- Health (PCT)
- Police
- Youth Offending Service
- Libraries
- Haringey Play Association
- Markfield
- Voluntary and Community Groups related to play and leisure

Appendix 5 Reference Documents

- Major of London – Making London Better for all Children and Young People
- Major of London – Guide to Preparing Play strategies 2005
- Dobson Report – Getting Serious About Play – 2004
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 31 Ratified 1991
- Every Child Matters – Change for Children 2004
- The New Charter for Children’s Play – Children’s Play Council 2004
- Best Play – Children’s Play Council 2000
- Making The Case for Play – Issy Cole-Hamilton and Tim Gill, National Children’s Bureau
- A Playworker’s Taxonomy of Play Types – Bob Huges, Playlink
- What Play Provision Should Do for Children – NPFA/DCMS, Children’s Play Council, Playlink
- Major of London – Making London Better for All Children and Young People
- Planning for Play – Guidance on the development of implementation of a local play strategy
- Managing risk in play provision: A position statement, Play Safety Forum (2002)

London Borough of Haringey

- Haringey’s Revised Deposit Unitary Development Plan (expected to be adopted in July 2006)
- Haringey Extended Schools Strategy – for extending services in and around schools – June 06
- Ashley Godfrey Associates on behalf of LB Haringey Recreation Services – Unsupervised Play Audit April 2006
- Haringey Play Association & Markfield on behalf of LB Haringey Children’s Service – Supervised Play Audit April 2006
- Haringey Transport Strategy – Draft Local Implementation Plan 2006
- Sports & Physical Activity Strategy December 2005
- Environmental Services – Open Space Strategy 2005
- Early Years & Play – Summer Feedback Report 2005
- Early Years & Play – Parents Feedback Report 2006
- Haringey Youth Service – Summer Programme Report 2005
- Haringey Open Space and Sports Assessment –

Volume 1 : A Strategic Open Space Assessment – Atkins 2003

- Haringey Children’s Fund – Viewpoint Report 2002-04
- Primary Schools Citizenship Debate – Children’s Play Space – July 2006

Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust

- Haringey Health Report 2005 – Growing up in Haringey

Voluntary and Community Sector

- Haringey Play Association – Children and young people’s consultation:
Play Policy 2004/05 Research and Discussion paper

ⁱ For children and young people, play is an innate drive, a biological necessity. Play is often defined as *“freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child....Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.”* This definition draws on the work of Bob Hughes and Frank King 1985 and is widely recognised and understood in the play sector. It means that children are playing when they are doing what they want to do, in the way they want to and for their own reasons. Play may take place with or without other children and any adult involvement is at the invitation of the child.

ⁱⁱ United Nations Rights of the Child Article 31

Parties recognise the right of the child 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 arts.

Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural artistic, recreational and leisure activities.

ⁱⁱⁱ The young people of today love luxury. They have bad manners, they scoff at authority and lack respect for their elders. Children nowadays are real tyrants, they no longer stand up when their elders come in the room where they are sitting, they contradict their parents, chat together in the presence of adults, eat gluttonously and tyrannise their teachers” *Socrates 300 BC*