

PLAY STRATEGY

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

2007 - 2012

INTRODUCTION

Play provision in Huntingdonshire varies across the district depending on where children and young people live. Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to the development of play and recreational opportunities in all localities. Future development will be co-ordinated at district or town/parish level in order to secure the most appropriate, sustainable provision for local communities.

This Play strategy is intrinsically linked to the District Council's Culture Strategy. The Culture Strategy also includes action plans for Open Spaces, Arts and Culture, Recreation and Leisure Development and Recreation Centre Services.

The Play strategy has been informed by a range of consultations with children, young people and parents (see appendix 1) and takes account of local and national policy initiatives and organisational priorities (see appendix 2). The map (Appendix 3) identifies the location of play facilities in Huntingdonshire.

It outlines priority targets for Huntingdonshire for 2007 – 2012 it will provide a clear framework for investment and ensure that play initiatives are developed in line with other relevant plans and strategies

A PLAY STRATEGY FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE

PURPOSE

- To establish play as an entitlement for children and young people in Huntingdonshire;
- To identify priorities for development necessary to secure children and young people's entitlement to play;
- To set out aims and objectives for the short to long term;
- To ensure that children and young people's entitlement to play is embedded in service planning; and
- To ensure that the planning S106 process links into the priorities and objectives of the strategy and links into the council's Supplementary Planning Document.

VISION:

All Children and young people in Huntingdonshire will be able to access a range of play opportunities suited to their needs and interests

PLAY DEFINITION:

What children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons.

Play is fundamental to children and young people's lives. It can happen any time, any place, anywhere.

People play to :

- to have fun
- be challenged
- be with others or alone
- relax
- feel free
- explore how they feel
- express themselves
- to deal with trauma and emotional health
- because they want and need to

PLAY PROVISION:

A space, some facilities or equipment or set of activities intended to give children and young people as much choice, control and freedom as possible within reasonable boundaries. This is often sometimes best achieved with adult support, guidance or supervision. The children and young people may themselves choose play involving certain rules or, in some cases, informal sport.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

In line with the definition adopted in the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, this strategy defines children and young people as being under the age of 18 years.

Local consultation with children and young people suggests that different provision is needed at different ages. Consequently, action plans to support this strategy will consider initiatives in 3 age groups

- Under 10 years
- 10 – 14 years
- 14 – 18 years

CORE VALUES:

All play initiatives should:-

- Include children and young people and parents where appropriate in planning and development
- Be accessible, taking account of the diverse needs of children and young people
- Be of good quality
- Look for sustainability by embedding in key strategies and plans

Further consultation work will be undertaken with the 14 – 18 year age group to clearly understand their requirement for play, the outcome of this consultation will be incorporated into the Play strategy. A number of consultations have taken place in Huntingdonshire with children, young people and adults. A full list of consultations can be found at Appendix 1.

Key points

- Overall provision of play grounds and equipment in Huntingdonshire for children is above average, however provision in Yaxley, Ramsey, Sawtry and St Ives is lower;
- Maintenance of play facilities is often cited as a problem, particularly misuse by older young people;
- There is an overall perception of insufficient facilities especially for young people;
- There are few facilities for young people especially in rural areas;
- Lack of appropriate public transport means many young people can't participate in activities unless they are very close to where they live;
- Young people worry about personal safety, bullying and intimidation;
- Children and young people in different age groups, under 10yrs, 10 -14yrs, 14 – 18yrs, require different interventions; and
- there is a need for targeted work to address special interests e.g. arts or specific community safety issues

EVALUATION AND MONITORING -

All action points will have Performance Indicators and interim mile stones.

Progress against Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated by Huntingdonshire Community and Young Peoples partnership and reported annually to the Local Strategic partnership.

QUALITY STANDARDS

On a new play area/site the design will be in accordance with the general principles of the national Playing Field Association's Six Acre Standard 2001 (NPFA), the Local Plan and other planning requirements.

Design:-

Will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the equipment will conform to European Standard BSEN 1176 and any surfacing be certified to European Standard BSEN 1177.

A post installation inspection report from RoSPA to check that it all conforms and are safe.

Fencing must be dog proof- galvanised steel bow top with a hydraulic self-closing gates.

CONSULTATIONS

Accessibility in Rural Huntingdonshire

Alice Watson. Huntingdonshire District Council Feb 2006

Based on adult perceptions of what young people need.

Few facilities for young people in most villages especially for teenagers

- Proposed solution is community transport service but adults split on whether this would be a good idea
- There is an assumption by those with children and about those who have children that parents who live in rural areas expect to provide lifts to their children but these are exclusively to organised activities eg sports clubs there is no mention of lifts purely to 'play'. Linked to this there seems to be an assumption that young people want or need to do 'organised' activities rather than just hang out

Extended Schools Survey

Allan Whyte. Office of Children and Young People's Services

512 young people participated - 9% from Hunts (St. Neots)

Top Sports

Trampolining
Gymnastics
Football
Badminton
Using the gym

Top arts and learning

Outings
Drama
Dance
Internet
Making videos

Barriers to Participation

- Young people living in rural areas had problems accessing activities after school as they rely on the school bus and there are no other public bus routes that would get them home
- Being forced to do it – 28%
- Cost – 21%. 50% thought £2 was a reasonable cost.
- Who runs the activity – 15%
- Activities being competitive – 10%. There is a fear of bullying and intimidation both in group activities and in terms of going to places where there might be unfamiliar people. Prefer some kind of adult supervision

Young people with disabilities want same activities as other young people

Annual Consultation.

Claire Sides. Huntingdonshire District Council. April 2005

18 young people aged 11-18 participated in a day of consultation activities based on HDC priorities

11-13 yr olds thought litter, dog fouling, graffiti and abandoned cars were a big problem in the area

14-18 yr olds thought there were not enough parks and open spaces

There was a perceived threat from 'druggies' particularly in relation to the Oxmoor area of Huntingdon

11-13 yr olds want opportunities to do constructive graffiti

14-18 yr olds want more opportunities to play, watch and listen to live music

Make a Difference Consultation January 2004

Claire Keck for Ramsey Area Partnership

Several initiatives designed to gain views and ideas of young people were included.

Young people want to see a reduction in crime and named specific places where they do not feel safe especially at night

Street lighting needs improving

Public transport is poor and young people cannot access leisure, education and employment opportunities

There are few facilities for young people in the Ramsey area

Smart People Like Arty Things.

Viv Peters, Huntingdonshire District Council. March 2003

127 young people aged 11-19 were interviewed by Peer Researchers about arts provision in Hunts

- Want more arts opportunities in the district
- Access to existing provision needs to be better
- Arts provision needs a targeted approach
- Access to information about arts provision needs to be improved

Youth Matters consultation –Hunts Information. Summer 2005. Office of Children and Young People's Services

Completed by 11-19yr olds

Activities they want to do

- Ice skating
- Bowling
- Cinema

Where they currently meet friends

- Town Centre
- Youth Club
- Mate's House
- Park

Where they would like to meet friends

- Town
- Park

Getting It Right.

Office of Children and Young People's Services. October 2005

Young people were consulted on the key themes from the Children and Young People's Plan.

- Cheaper or free public transport
- Transport at more regular and appropriate times
- Transport that goes to entertainment venues
- Independent travel for young people with disabilities
- Alternative activities (will reduce drug and alcohol use)
- Reduce stress by providing more places to go and things to do

- More things for all ages to do
- More things for families to do together
- Improved access to existing or nearby facilities eg cost, transport
- Safe and secure environments – lighting CCTV adult presence, absence of traffic
- Reduce bullying by providing more things to do
- Better equipment in schools

**What Children and Young People want to do at Huntingdon Leisure Centre.
Louise Clewes and Bevis Moynan.
Huntingdonshire District Council. July 2006**

299 surveys completed with children and young people in Huntingdon schools

Most popular activities primary school children wanted to do

- Swimming
- Football
- Trampolining
- Arts and crafts

Most popular activities that secondary school students wanted to do

- Football
- Trampolining
- Dancing
- Swimming
- Badminton

PMP August 2006

An overall perception of insufficient facilities particularly for children and young people. Size of facility is relatively consistent across the district although average size of provision in Huntingdon and Yaxley is smaller than in other areas

Quality of provision is perceived to be good on 45 sites but misuse, vandalism and graffiti are main quality issues. In some areas over 50% of sites suffer from vandalism. Generally maintenance is good

Geographical distribution of facilities is good although there are localised accessibility deficiencies in some market towns and key centres for growth. There are also indications of demand for facilities in some smaller settlements.

Partner consultation group event January 2007

Action points agreed:-

1. Develop the capacity of providers to work with children and young people:
2. encourage adults in the community to understand the benefits of children and young people participating in play activities:
3. ensuring play opportunities are included in specifications for all projects:
4. ensuring external funding agreements are developed in line with the play strategy:
5. increase accessibility of play facilities; and

6. develop facilities/opportunities in specific areas of need
 - high population of children and young people and few facilities
 - areas of deprivation
 - rural areas with limited access to facilities and no plans for development
 - areas with high incidents of ASB.

Key Local and National Policy Documents

The UN Convention on the rights of the child 1989 “gives all children the right to rest and leisure; to engage in age appropriate play and recreational activities”.

The Children Act 2004 “recognised the need to make better provision for children’s play as a theme that cuts across a range of policy areas, from planning, open space and transport to health, education and childcare. Most significantly the enjoyment of recreation, including play is one of the outcomes for children that authorities are required to consider in drawing up co-ordinated children and young peoples plans”.

Getting Serious About Play 2004 A review of children’s play to advise central government on the use of lottery funding for play “recommended that authorities should take the opportunity to improve the planning and operation of play facilities across their respective areas in partnership with other local agencies”.

2004 Health White Paper noted that “many children appear to have less time been physically active and that this inactivity is a contributing factor to the rise in obesity among children and young people”

Every Child Matters. 2003

Sets out 5 outcomes which services should work towards, based on consultation with children and young people – being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well-being.

Youth Matters. 2005

Proposes integrated services around young people’s needs. Advocates national standards that would require local authorities to provide

- Access to 2 hours per week of sporting activity
- Access to 2 hours a week of other constructive activities in clubs, youth groups or classes
- Opportunities to contribute to their communities through volunteering
- A wide range of other recreational, cultural, sporting and enriching experiences
- A range of safe and enjoyable places in which to spend time

Huntingdonshire Children’s and Young Peoples Plan

Increase number of yp participating in sport and physical activity each week

1.1H Implement the play strategy with a focus on creating more physical play opportunities for children and their families

3.1 ensure that the development of new communities in Cambridgeshire is accompanied by the supply of high quality facilities for cyp

3.4 increase the range of extended services provided by schools and other providers

4.1 develop and implement a comprehensive sports, arts and cultural strategy

4.2 improve provision for young people in response to 'Youth Matters' including sport and recreation

4.7 Increase accessibility of services through better use of existing transport resources

Huntingdonshire District Council Corporate Objectives

Corporate Aim – Healthy Living, Objective:- To promote healthy lifestyle choices

Corporate Aim - Safe, vibrant and inclusive communities, Objective:- To enable residents to take an active part in their communities.

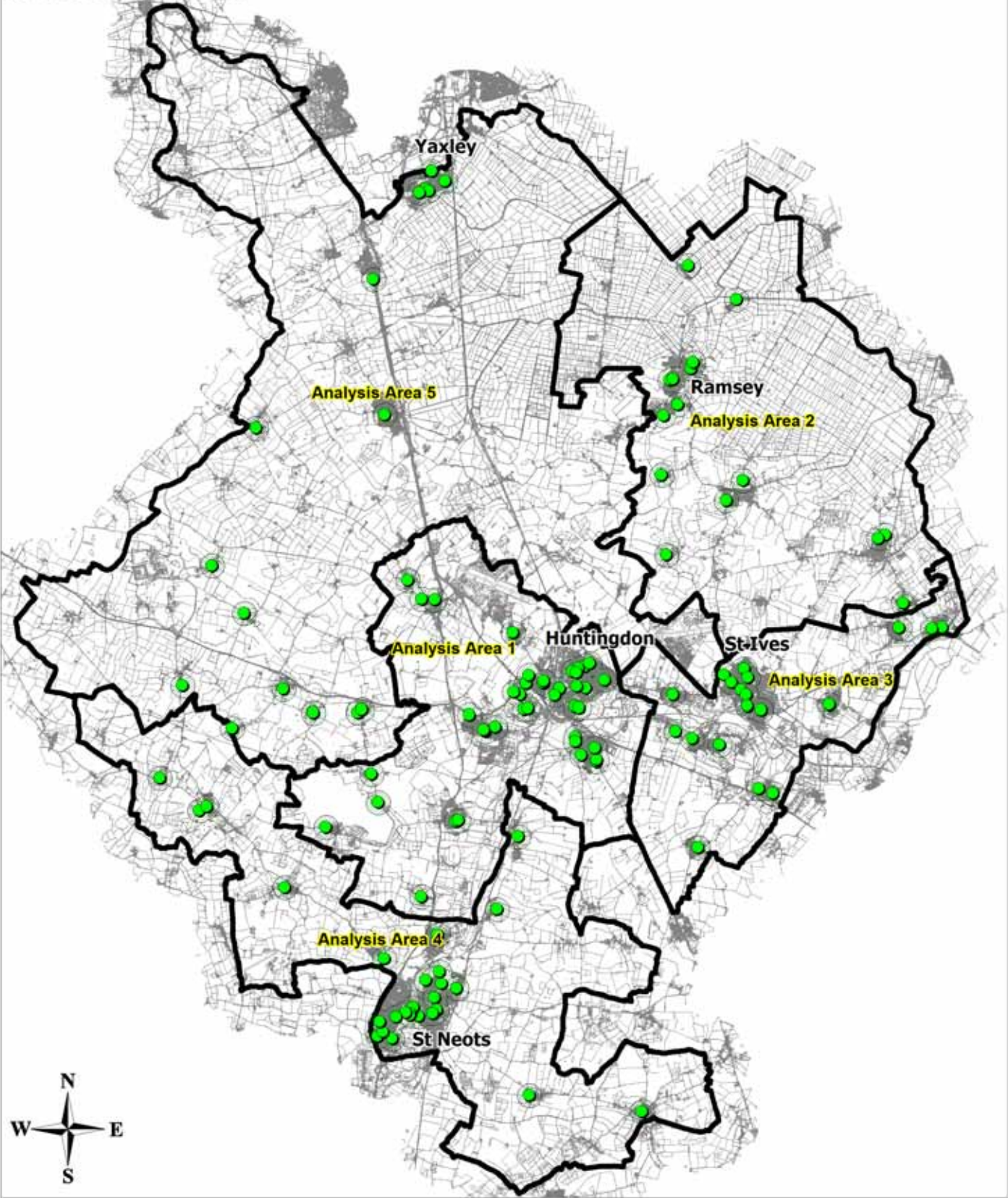
Huntingdonshire Community Strategy

Increase the number of people using cultural and leisure services

OBJECTIVES:

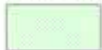
- Develop existing and new opportunities for cultural and leisure activities
- Improve access to opportunities for physical activity and cultural enrichment that promote good health and mental well being
- Increase the number of cultural and leisure opportunities for young people
- Improve the understanding of and access to the countryside and the heritage of the landscape
- Increase opportunities for pursuing healthy lifestyles through culture and leisure, including encouraging walking and cycling

**Overview Map, Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments,
Children & Young People**



Children & Young People
●

Catchment - Outdoor Sports Facilities - Pitches and Tennis
(720m buffer)



Analysis Areas



Mastermap



ACTIVE

Bringing data to life

