

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Children & Young People's Play Strategy (2009 – 2014)

PREPARED

BY

**Brackley Town Council
Play Space Working Party**

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Introduction

- 1.1 Play is vitally important to children's development, learning and health. Play contributes to emotional, intellectual, social, cultural, and psychological and physical development of children, and this ultimately benefits the community in which children and young people live.
- 1.2 Accessibility to good quality play opportunities has a positive impact on people's lives; Brackley Town Council recognise the importance of developing a Play Strategy in its own right, and the contribution it will make to the Children and Young People of the town whilst achieving the wider objectives of the Council.
- 1.3 This play strategy will give focus to the needs of children and young people throughout the area. This in itself should bring about change, innovation and the further development of play in the town.

Purpose and Scope of the Strategy

- 1.4 Brackley Town Council's Play Strategy is to be aligned with the priorities with the Children and Young People's Plan and the Change for Children government agenda to promote delivery of the Every Child Matters outcomes for all children:
 - be healthy – improved emotional well-being and lower childhood obesity levels
 - stay safe – increased safety and feelings of safety among children
 - enjoy and achieve – improved attainment and behaviour in schools
 - make a positive contribution – increased engagement in activities that reduce anti-social behaviour and offending
 - achieve economic well-being – parents confident in the knowledge their children are safe at play
- 1.5 Every Child needs and has the right to play; the aim of this play strategy is to ensure this is recognised and supported by BTC. This will be achieved by preparing a framework for action, thus ensuring children and young people throughout the town have access to a wide variety of enjoyable, challenging, safe and sustainable play opportunities.
- 1.6 The aims and outcomes for the strategy are as follows:
 - To produce a coherent and co-ordinated plan that will deliver and support children's play services and facilities.
 - To ensure the children and young people in Brackley will experience a stimulating, challenging and improved environment for play in the future.
 - To have more play choices available to the children and young people of Brackley.
 - To identify that play and its role in a child's life will be valued and supported.
 - To provide more effective use of available resources for Play.
 - To ensure parents, carers and providers of play opportunities have an increased understanding of the value and importance of play.
 - To provide a framework on which to base resource planning with partners including acquiring external funding
 - To promote social cohesion within our current communities and new developments by providing opportunities for parents and young children to meet together in appropriate surroundings.
- 1.7 The Strategy has been prepared to cover the period from 2009– 2014. The strategy will be reviewed and updated by BTC Play Space Working Party annually during this period.

- 1.8 The age groups covered within the strategy encompass Children and Young People aged 0-18 years.
- 1.9 It is a Strategy for play, where possible the strategy will reflect the existing local, regional and national strategies.

Methodology

- 1.10 This Play Strategy has been developed through use of the following framework:
- Identifying the purpose and scope of the Play Strategy.
 - Identifying the key national regional and local policies and practices that influence and have an impact on the development of play.
 - Gathering evidence of existing play provision across the town to determine current provision
 - Drawing on existing and undertaking new, consultation exercises with children and young people and other stakeholders to seek their views on the development of play.
 - Identifying the resulting key issues, needs and aspirations for play in and around the town.
 - Establishing a vision and set of objectives in which to shape play during the period of the Play Strategy.
 - Facilitating partners' agreement on an action plan and list of priorities for the Play Strategy to address.

Brackley Town Council Play Space Working Party

- 1.11 The structure gives the Play Space Working Party the ability to link across other thematic areas such as, community safety, health and social well-being.
- 1.12 Partnership working is one of the key priorities for the group. This includes the commitment to, local strategic partnership and community safety partnership and also the commitment to working with other organisations at a very local neighbourhood level to join up and coordinate provision to address the lack of provision of play space.
- 1.13 The council is served by the Safer Community Team with which the council liaises closely on issues of concern raised by the community and in a number of cases the route cause has been the lack of provision for young people.
- 1.14 Brackley Town Council Play Space Working Party is the driving force behind developing this strategy. The partnership is comprised of members of BTC and is currently chaired by a member of Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee

An invitation is being extended to

- South Northamptonshire Council
- South Northamptonshire Youth Council
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- South Northamptonshire Police
- South Northamptonshire Volunteer Bureau
- Play England
- SERCO/Leisure Trust to join the partnership as key providers
- Market town partnership for Brackley
- Representative of MCS
- Representation of BCA

Definition of Play

- 1.15 There are many definitions of play. For the purpose of this strategy Brackley Town Council Play Space Working Party intends to adopt a widely accepted definition of play. This definition is also adopted by the Department of Culture Media and Sport within its document 'Getting Serious about Play' (2004).

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

- 1.16 Whilst this is a relatively simple definition, it is important to recognise the diversity, complexity and richness of children's play, and the experiences they derive from, and through it.

Brackley Town Council's Vision for Play

- 1.17 Brackley Town Council's Vision for Play is adapted from Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This was ratified by the UK Government in 1991.

'We recognise the right of children and young people to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child or young person and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts'

- 1.18 Brackley Town Council's Vision for is linked to safe play space partnership:

'Every child and young person has the right to accessible, stimulating, play opportunities which will enable their development as healthy individuals and keep them safe'

Brackley Town Council's Values for Play

- 1.19 To promote play as an essential part of every child's life, vital to their development, to plan and evaluate play opportunities taking account of children, young people and parents linked to local need and to maximise every opportunity to increase choice for all children to improve social mobility

Making the Case for Play

- 2.1 When a child experiences good play they are better able to meet the challenges the world presents. Through play, children and young people's range of educational, emotional, problem solving and creative responses to life are enhanced. Good play experiences lead to better mental and physical health, increased educational attainment leading to happier and more fulfilled citizens.

Play and Learning

- 2.2 There have been many studies on the educational benefits of play in the development of young children. It is also widely believed that play has wide-ranging benefits for all children, particularly in relation to emotional and social learning. Play complements schooling by providing an opportunity for children to review and absorb and to give personal meaning to what they learn in formal educational settings.

Play, Health and Social Well Being

- 2.3 Play is crucial to the development of good physical and mental health. In the UK adult obesity has trebled in the last 20 years, the prevalence of childhood obesity is also on the increase. The Chief Medical Officer recommends that 'children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate-intensity activity each day'. Evidence suggests that ensuring opportunities for free play is the best way of achieving this.
- 2.4 Good quality play experiences are vital to the development of healthy children, as play provides:
- opportunities to enjoy freedom and exercise choice
 - the opportunity to test boundaries and explore risk
 - a wide range of social educational and physical experiences
 - opportunities to develop independence and foster self esteem
 - the opportunity to interact with other children and therefore to develop respect for others
 - the opportunity to be creative and promote the capacity to learn

Play and the Environment

- 2.5 Children and young people should have access to good quality open space and its design, no matter where they live. Children want the opportunity to build and manage their play environments, to work with natural materials and to manipulate them at will. Children want to be allowed to play in streets, open space and parks and not to be seen as a threat to their communities.

Play and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.6 Adults often perceive children and young people 'hanging out' or playing in public spaces as a nuisance or a threat. Consequently, children and young people often feel excluded from space to which they have a right. Research commissioned by CABA Space argues that 'place-making' – improving the design and maintenance of parks and other public spaces – is a more effective solution to anti-social behaviour than simply increasing security measures.

- 2.7 Diversionary activities that incorporate play can have a significant impact on children and young people's actions and attitudes.

Play and Design

- 2.8 The public playground is an important framework for children's experiences. It is the stage, where they rehearse different roles and find their own identities through meeting others. The playground's scenery and properties can therefore have an influence on the quality of the playtime.
- 2.9 When designing play spaces it is essential that children and young people play a part in the choice and design of facilities. Economics will play a part in what is achievable. The spirit and quality of a place and the natural elements already present can be an important starting point in designing play space.

The Value to the Community

- 2.10 As well as helping to reduce the involvement of children and young people in anti-social behaviour, play can play a part in promoting social cohesion in the longer term. It supports families and communities by providing a focus for informal networks and by allowing children autonomy within an environment about which parents feel secure. It makes an important contribution, in parallel with education, in developing adults who are creative and effective in the social and economic sphere. It offers opportunities for exploring cultural identity and difference and can provide a focus for tackling social exclusion through community development.

Risk Taking and Children's Resilience

- 2.11 Children and Young People need, and want, to take risks. Concepts of acceptable and unacceptable risk are critical to making informed decisions about what constitutes a best possible play environment.
- 2.12 The Play Strategy supports the Play Safety Forum statement 'Managing Risk in Play Provision' (2002). This means that play providers across the town must take steps to ensure that the risks in play are managed and controlled so far as reasonably practicable while allowing the potential benefits to be delivered.
- 2.13 Good play provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they get from it. It recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need. It will balance the risk involved in any activity (and the subsequent probability of any harm that may arise) with the potential benefit of the play activity itself and its value to children's development.
- 2.14 Play providers should provide opportunities for children to encounter and manage risk; this helps to teach children and young people to take chances and evaluate risk.
- 2.15 Good play provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- 2.16 A resilient child will have some of the skills they may need to support them when things get tough. Through play children can build up their levels of resilience and so become better able to meet the challenges the world presents.

- 2.17 Playwork can support children to build resilience at an individual level but also support the building of resilience through both family factors (supporting children and parents and carers to play together) and community factors (building supportive and cohesive communities).

National, Regional and Local Strategic Context

National Context

- 3.1 This play strategy can make a major contribution to the Government's Every Child Matters outcomes:
- **Being healthy:** enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle;
 - **Staying safe:** being protected from harm and neglect;
 - **Enjoying and achieving:** getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood;
 - **Making a positive contribution:** being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour;
 - **Economic well-being:** not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.
- 3.2 The Government's 2002 report 'Living Places' Cleaner, Safer, Greener' stated that 'high quality green spaces go a long way to encouraging people to pursue healthier lifestyles through exercise such as walking, cycling and active children's play. Particular demographic groups tend to suffer disproportionately from poor quality public places. Children, young people and older people can be inhibited from walking to school or the shops, from meeting friend or taking exercise.'
- 3.3 National planning guidance explicitly recognises the need for dedicated outdoor space for play and recreation. Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) requires local authorities to assess the needs and opportunities for different types of open space and recreational facilities, including play for children.

Regional Context

- 3.4 The Northamptonshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) will address the fundamental issues of quality of life and life chances. Its purpose and overall challenge is a focus on outcomes that will deliver real and long term change for people and communities.
- 3.5 The South Northamptonshire Community Strategy hopes to influence and inform the decision making of all key agencies working in South Northamptonshire. It sets a long term direction but also encompasses short and medium term priorities for the partners to action jointly. There are a series of aims across six different themes including:
- learning and skills
 - economic
 - social and community well-being
 - health and housing
 - community safety
 - the natural and built environment.

Local Context

- 3.6 The main aim of the local strategy is to: "Enhance, promote and sustain the cultural well-being and assets of the community". The strategy will help identify what constitutes the culture of Brackley and will help to determine how best to contribute through its proposed existing services and activities.

- 3.7 Youth, services and facilities, sports, play and open spaces were considered as some of the services/facilities that the community considers the highest priority for attention. From this an action plan will be formulated to help achieve specific priorities for Brackley
- 3.8 Brackley is located as an historic market town in the south-east of Northamptonshire. It has a good hillside position and is within easy reach of several interesting and larger towns. Brackley, which can trace its history back to the very earliest times, was probably founded in two distinct areas. One was around the parish church and the other around the castle by the River Ouse. It was this site at which Bracca built the very first village which became the Brackley we know to-day.

Demographics

- 3.9 Brackley grew along the Oxford to Northampton road and trade along that route brought it prosperity. Good times come and go and after a period during which it was referred to as 'this por towne' it was the dawning of the coaching era which restored a wealthier scene. Brackley became a staging point and several coaching inns of this period still survive in the town. Sadly after 1832 Brackley lost its two MP's and never regained its former importance, becoming even at that time a rather quieter market town. When the railways came to the area Brackley enjoyed the luxury of two mainline stations situated at either end of the town. Both these were closed under the Beeching cuts and road improvements have hardly made up for the town's removal from the railway network. In more recent times, especially since the early 1950's, Brackley has grown considerably and new industry has been attracted to the town. House building has proceeded apace and the town now faces the major challenge of maintaining its quality of life while meeting the requirements arising from a rapid growth in population. Brackley has a population of approximately 13,916 in 2009.
- 3.10 In the twenty years between 1989 and 2009 the population of Brackley has grown by 45% compared with an increase of 9.5% for the East Midlands region as a whole, one of the largest increases in the country. This increase is set to continue with an extra 1600 – 2000 dwellings planned for the town by 2026.

3.11 Breakdown of children and young people's population by age

Age	Population	% of Overall Population
Under 4 year	874	6.10%
5 – 9 years	1005	7.02%
10 - 14 years	1052	7.34%
15 - 19 years	880	6.14%
Total	3811	26.6%

Brackley Data: Mid 2007 Population estimates for 2009 wards

Crime

- 3.12 Brackley is a very low crime area compared to neighbouring towns or other towns in Northamptonshire.
- 3.13 Figures supplied for Brackley during the period April 2009 through to the end of September 2009 show 54 violent offences (which it must be emphasised include 'Domestics'), 9 Dwelling Burglaries, 41 other Burglaries, e.g. Garages or business premises, 31 Theft from Motor Vehicles, 5 Theft of Vehicles, 1 Vehicle interference, 89 Criminal Damages, 4 Drug offence, 57 Theft or handling offences, e.g. shoplifting, 28 Deception or Fraud e.g. driving

away from Garages and 3 Miscellaneous offence which do not fit in to the previous categories.

- 3.14 During the period April 2009 through to the end of September 2009 there were 432 calls relating to Anti Social behaviour in the town. These included:
- 2 - Drinking in the street
 - 12 - Vehicle obstruction
 - 14 - Vehicle nuisance incidents (e.g. wheels squeaking/tyres squealing)
 - 29 - Neighbour disputes
 - 301 - Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour (this figure covers all parks/open spaces)
 - 3 - Animal related behaviour (e.g. dog barking)
 - 16 - Civil disputes
 - 2 - Vagrancy incidents
 - 2 - Hoax calls
 - 1 - Inappropriate use of fireworks
 - 34 - Malicious or nuisance phone calls
 - 9 - Noise complaints
 - 4 - Miscellaneous which do not fit into any of the above categories.

Safety

- 3.15 To our knowledge there has not been any children killed in road traffic accidents in the town. Despite this there are increasing concerns about road accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. This is an issue to be aware of when providing access to safe places to play.

Local Provision Examined

- 4.1 The play sector in Brackley comprises of a wide and diverse range of voluntary, community and private and statutory organisations that provide for children and young peoples play throughout the town.

Mapping of provision and services

- 4.2 To identify all play provision in the Town, data has been collected with regard to all existing past and future potential play spaces

Unsupervised Play Provision

- 4.3 Unsupervised play space is important in facilitating opportunities for physical activity, free play and the development of movement and social skills. Unsupervised spaces dedicated for play include equipped play areas, skateparks and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA). The majority of ownership and maintenance of sites in Brackley is dealt with by Town Councils.
- 4.4 There are currently six equipped play spaces for children in Brackley. These play spaces vary in the age range for which they are intended, their current state of repair and the feasibility of repair where the equipment is aged:
- Humphries Drive
 - Brewin Close
 - Chaffinch Drive
 - Falcan Way
 - Brackley Park
 - Swift Way - currently under development
- 4.5 Seven additional spaces have been identifies, some of which* have had some form of play equipment in the past which has since been removed:
- Tudor Way
 - Oak Road
 - Wordsworth
 - Ellesmere Road*
 - Edgerton House*
 - Nether Close*
 - Roman Way
- 4.6 The town's young people are asking for a skate park facility and, although the area has not formally been identified, there are a few places where this type of equipment could be accommodated. Serious consideration must be given to this growing group of young people through this strategy and/or through the towns master plan
- 4.7 Many other non-dedicated spaces exist throughout the town, these spaces include parks, gardens, open spaces, streets, amenity areas, woodland and natural open spaces. These non-dedicated play spaces are more difficult to identify but their importance in the town must be noted.
- 4.8 The Brackley Town Council Play Space Working Party will make reference to provision for children and young people, specifically in relation to housing developers requirements. This reinforces the value placed on providing facilities for children and young people, especially where there are future populations and housing growth areas. Key points to note include:
- New developments should devote public open space in line with the revised National Playing Fields Association standards

- Children's play areas, casual play space and landscaped areas for sitting and quiet relaxation should be provided
- Larger developments should provide recreational and leisure facilities where the need has arisen as a direct result of the development.

- 4.9 The level of provision in Brackley is comparable to other areas, although it is understood to be below the recommended NPFA standards for playing space for children (0.81ha per 1,000 population). It should be noted that there is a clear message for a need for additional children and young people's facilities.
- 4.10 In setting standards for provision for children and young people there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, and other Local Authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs.

Quantity

- 4.11 Although there are no standard sizes or levels of equipment per play area, the NPFA provide guidelines for the size and number of facilities for LAP's, LEAP's and NEAP criteria.
- LAPs – aged 4-6 years; 1 minute walk or within 100 metres with a minimum area of 100m square. LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity green space
 - LEAPs – aged a minimum of 5 years; minimum area of 400 square metres or within 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes. It contains at least 5 pieces of equipment, of which at least two are individual pieces
 - NEAPs – aged a minimum of 8 years; minimum area of 1000 square metres and should be located within 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian. It contains at least 8 types of play equipment.
- 4.12 A key theme throughout all consultation was the lack in provision for children and more significantly young people, the results from the survey cement these themes,% stating a lack of provision for children and a highly significant% stating lack of provision for young people.
- 4.13 There is a strong feeling from residents and the local Police that the level of provision for young people/teenagers is inadequate, however it can be difficult to provide this type of open space.
- 4.14 With quality issues as a major consideration for existing children's play areas and a lower level of dissatisfaction, it is considered appropriate to raise the standard slightly above existing provision to 0.95 play areas per 1000 population.

Quality

- 4.15 Local Areas of Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs) indicate some quality aspirations in terms of providing seating for adults, a varied range of equipment and teenager meeting places.
- 4.16 Overall, the quality of play areas varied throughout the town in the site assessments, with the two newer spaces, Humphries drive and Brackley Park, being in good repair, with all the others in urgent need of repair and/or replacement. Many of these were installed by the developers and the equipment is no longer deemed suitable and is very costly to maintain due the fact that the manufacturers are no longer in existence.

- 4.17 The quality standard should incorporate the public aspirations of providing varied equipment in a clean and safe environment suitable for the children using the facilities. It is hoped that by providing facilities close to housing that vandalism and anti social behaviour will be minimised and facilities will be used for the purposes they are designed for. This standard can also serve to guide improvement programmes by aiming to achieve the quality threshold score at all sites, thereby encouraging a sense of ownership: which is known to reduce vandalism and antisocial behaviour
- 4.18 The key points to note are that sites for children should be well-maintained, clean, safe and litter free with clear boundaries and appropriately lit, containing seating informal play equipment and opportunities for free play. Similarly the key points for young people include providing shelter in a safe and secure location, well-lit and appropriate.

Accessibility

- 4.19 The SNC Young People's Survey (web-based survey) highlighted that the majority of children use play facilities within another type of open space, their current behaviour suggests that they walk 5-10 minutes to access it. This strategy has taken this survey to reflect the typical usage of Brackley's Young people
- 4.20 A walk time is considered the most appropriate method of travel and the recommended local standard of a 10 minute walk for both children and young people.
- 4.21 When these catchment areas are applied there are some accessibility deficiencies for children's play areas, particularly to the north east of Brackley. For young people/teenage facilities, there are large areas of deficiency.
- 4.22 For young people/ teenage facilities, it is a difficult to achieve a balance of facilities across the town as they are isolated areas where young people in particular will find it difficult to travel between. The installation of lower impact facilities such as teenage shelters and kick-about walls may be an appropriate alternative within the some areas. In many cases there is often a need to agree locations for young people to be allowed to sit and hang-out.
- 4.23 The mobile skate park which has been funded by the Community Safety Partnership is currently being used and supported by the sports development team, to provide diverse facilities within the town. This scheme has been extremely successful and well received throughout the community. Similar mobile play schemes and facilities should be encouraged throughout the area.

Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation will take place with approximately 30 people regarding the provision of facilities for Children & Young People (including open space) in Brackley. These include representation from:
- Schools
 - Clubs
 - SNC
 - BTC
 - South Northamptonshire Youth Council
 - Residents
 - other key stakeholders and policy makers

Consultation

- 5.2 Everyone recognises the value of play in terms of child development, especially its particular position in the development of social skills, citizenship, relationship building, communication and links to learning.
- 5.3 There is general concern about the lack of a strategic play presence in Brackley and a need for a coherent and a co-ordinated approach to allow effective delivery. This would include specialist information and support infrastructures.

The Key Issues and Needs

- 5.4 The consultation responses from children and young people, parents and carers together with the responses from play providers and other key stakeholders will outline the key issues and needs for play being identified.

Strategic Objectives

- 5.5 From our findings to date it is believed the outcomes of the consultation will provide key objectives are expected to emerge through which to develop and implement the needs and aspirations of children and young people's play across Brackley. These are likely to include:
- 5.6 **The need to raise the profile of play.** Play needs to be valued and recognised as a fundamental requirement to children and young people's development and well-being.
- 5.7 **The need for more resources to develop play and creativity.** Play providers should work together as partners and share information and guidance on current thinking in play, good practice and resources to sustain quality provision.
- 5.8 **The need for children and young people to feel safe and secure.** Address the safety aspects of play spaces e.g. the impact and perception of anti-social and threatening behaviour, dogs, glass, litter and broken equipment. Good lighting of a play/open space can also help.
- 5.9 **The need for more community involvement in developing play.** Information needs to be widely available to providers, volunteers and parents in an accessible and regular way. Further work to promote and support the voluntary/community sector to provide play in local communities.

- 5.10 **The need to address play provision as part of the growth agenda in Brackley.** Ensure planning policy is adopted with strong evidence base.
- 5.11 **The need for better quality open space and play space.** Emphasis on clean, safe and well maintained with more opportunities to engage with the natural environment.

Play Strategy Implementation & Action Plan

Action Plan

- 6.1 The Play Strategy will culminate in the development of a comprehensive action plan that will develop a range of actions to achieve each of the respective objectives of the strategy whilst demonstrating who will be responsible for the implementation of each of the actions, what the intended targets will be and what the measures of success / expected outcomes will be.
- 6.2 The action plan to be used in achieving the above objectives
- 6.3 Like all strategies their success very much depends on the ongoing monitoring and review to ensure that the intended outcomes are successfully achieved and that the strategy is regularly reviewed and adjusted in the light of changing developments and needs
- 6.4 Therefore the strategy is intended as a 'living' document, which means that at key points in its life the Play Partnership will review and evaluate its scope, effectiveness, outcomes and relevance to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

Implementation

- 6.5 In order to achieve this, the Brackley Town Council Play Space Working Party will meet on a regular basis throughout the period of the strategy to undertake the following:
 - Implement the actions contained within the Play Strategy.
 - Assess applications for funding and approve schemes.
 - Assist with the ongoing management, monitoring and evaluation of the Play Strategy's success.
 - Constantly review and revise the strategy and its action plan
 - Report on and celebrate its success
- 6.6 Our aims are to:
 - Continue to develop inclusive play opportunities to extend access to quality play for all children
 - Increase access for children with learning difficulties and disabilities
 - Expand and improve play spaces and to increase free access to play
 - Improve access to play opportunities for under 5's, under 8's and under 18's
 - Strengthen the links with schools to ensure children can move easily between out of school learning and play activities
 - Build on the partnership with children's centres and extended schools to maximise resources

- Improve information to children, young people, parents and carers to increase choice for children, young people, parents and carers.

6.7 Our priorities over the next five years are to:

- Increase access to play opportunities for all children
- Extend access to play opportunities on school sites during school holidays in partnership with extended schools.
- Improve the quality of play opportunities
- Improve the quality and diversity of the play experience for children
- Improve the infrastructure for the delivery of play opportunities

6.8 Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and review by The Town Council of the action plan
- Ongoing consultation with children, young people, parents, local community forums.

6.9 Next Steps

- Further consultation to be undertaken with key stakeholders
- The Play Strategy to be annually reviewed
- Ensure our commitment to the delivery of quality play space and opportunities for children and young people in the area

6.10 Taking into consideration:

- Promise to reinstate Swift Way Play equipment
- Budget – monies already ring fenced
- Government Play Space Policy
- Police and other agency requirements
- Youth and resident requirements
- SNC and Brackley Master Plan
- Future Grant availability
- The [Community Safety Partnership](#) Joint Action Group chaired by Sgt Tim Pearson
- In line with the [Community Safety Strategy](#).