

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY STRATEGY



**Improving the play and free time experiences
of children and young people across Harlow**

**A Harlow Council Strategy enabling the play partnership and
voluntary sector to deliver play and youth activities in Harlow**

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Foreword

Vice Chairman of the Environment and Community Committee Cllr Joel Charles

It is with great pleasure that I endorse the youth & play strategy, a multi agency approach to understanding how we can best meet the needs of young people. It is important that we focus our attention on young people in our community today. In February 2007, UNICEF published a league table ranking the well being of children in 21 developed countries. It compared children's material, educational and subjective well-being, how healthy and safe they are, their behaviour and the strength of their family and peer relationships. Shamefully Britain came bottom. We were judged the worst place to be a child.

That is why Children's and Young People play and recreation are of vital importance in Harlow.

This Strategy outlines how the Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership (HPYAP) will address gaps and themes to maximise the range of play activities for children and young people. The strategy aims to be a practical tool to be referred to whenever decisions about play are made. It is applicable to all forms of children and young people's services and other work impacting on children and young people's lives such as planning, road safety, health and policing.

The Play and Youth Activity Partnership want play and youth opportunities to be inspiring and enjoyable, promoting achievement and a healthy lifestyle, whilst safe and inclusive. Play and recreation must be promoted and celebrated for all children and young people. It can be formal and structured as well as informal and unstructured.

One of the best parts of my job is the time I spend with Harlow Youth Council, who are able to come up with innovative suggestions to improve the Council's understanding of what it is like to be a young person in Harlow today.

In the 21st century the meaning of play has changed.

Young people are nowadays drawn increasingly toward playing the latest PS3 or X-Box game or chatting with their friends on social networking sites. This reliance on computer games and fostering cyber relationships is becoming increasingly unhealthy. Childhood obesity has become a serious health problem amongst young people and their obsession on building relationships with friends over the internet is causing many of them to lose out on the basic and essential social skills to get on in life.

Therefore it is important that we look at ways of making sports and other activities more accessible, so that children have more opportunities to exercise, learn in an outdoor environment and mix with children of different ages and backgrounds.

None of this is an easy task, but tackling them is an essential part of this strategy for giving children back their childhoods. The loss of confidence in outside space, combined with greater exposure to commercial influences, a reduction in the availability of sport and a growing culture of risk aversion are significantly harming the childhoods of too many children. We owe it to them to act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership (HPYAP)

The Harlow Play Partnership, established in 2005, was reviewed in 2008/9 to incorporate a wider membership ensuring that all children and young people's views are represented and so it became the Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership. It is a multi-agency group representing children and young people aged up to 18 who live or go to school in Harlow. The Partnership is a sub group of the Harlow Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and has a responsibility to feed into the board and overall local priorities. Harlow Council works within the Essex Children's Trust Approach and in partnership with other organisations supporting children and young people across the district and county.

The Play Strategy for Harlow was reviewed in 2009 to become the Play and Youth Activity Strategy in consultation with the HPYAP, CYPSP and children and young people (see page 8 for the review process flow chart).

The strategy focuses on the '3 frees':

- Free at point of entry (no cost to participants)
- Free choice of activity (allowing children and young people's choice and control in their leisure pursuits)
- Free to come and go (non registered, allowing children freedom to attend as desired)

Public Consultation and Research

Extensive consultation and research has taken place with residents of all ages to establish:

- What free play and free time activity is
- Where children and young people naturally undertake free time activities
- What are barriers to participation for children and young people
- What activities/facilities residents would like to see

Audit of existing provision

- An audit has also taken place to find the play and activity opportunities that currently exist
- Review of gaps and identification of barriers to free play and free time activities

Gaps and Themes

The following gaps and themes were identified to increase opportunity and decrease barriers to participation

- More activities/places to go for teenagers
- Quality free open access play parks are important
- More structured/supervised play to decrease barriers to participation including fear of bullies, anti social behaviour and personal safety
- More activities for babies and younger children
- A greater emphasis on inclusive opportunities for children and young people currently under using services including those with additional needs, ethnic minorities and travellers
- More innovative play opportunities including opportunities for challenge and risk

Over the past 2 years Harlow Council has responded to these gaps and themes, working in partnership with existing service providers and using BIG lottery funding to develop new activities for children and young people.

We continue to develop, constantly strive to increase opportunity and decrease barriers to participation. A detailed action plan has been created to address these points and is reviewed quarterly through the HPYAP.

The HPYAP are members of the wider Essex Play Network and endorse the countywide Play Strategy and Action Plan. The HPYAP strategy also reflects the National Play Strategy goal to 'make this the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. Play is a vital ingredient of a happy and healthy childhood' (the Play Strategy 2008 DCSF, DCMS, play4life).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definition of free play and free time activities

'Play is 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.'

Best Play – Children's Play Council NPFA and Playlink

'Free time activities offer you the opportunity to make new friends, gain or develop skills, socialise, travel and experience life'

Connexions – direct information and advice for young people.

The word 'play' describes a wide range of activities that we have all taken part in. Play can be simple or complex and is described as 'what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interest in their own way and for their own purposes' (Getting Serious About Play). We believe that play should be:



Freely chosen – children and young people choose

WHAT they do themselves

Personally Directed – children and young people choose **HOW** they do something

Intrinsically motivated – children and young people choose **WHY** they do something

The Partnership recognises children and young people's right to play and free time activities as stated in Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Right of the Child. All children and young people should be given equal opportunity to participate in play and inclusive play is a central element of this strategy.

Play is a continuum, fundamental to all stages of life from childhood to adulthood and takes many different forms. The values and benefits of having choice and control within free play and activity experiences help mould us into adulthood. As adults we each have a responsibility to empower children to play freely and in turn grow old having lived a life using the skills and knowledge gained from the play we encourage today.

Although this strategy concentrates on the 'three frees' (as defined in line with the Government's Dobson Report), the Partnership recognises the value and importance of all free time experiences including fee-paying activities e.g. After School Clubs and Youth Clubs.



This strategy endorses the philosophy of the Essex Works Integrated Youth Services (IYS) *'Involvement of children, young People, their families and communities develops opportunities to encourage children and young people to get involved in the design, delivery, governance and evaluation of services'*.

This ensures that we have children and young people at the heart of everything we do whilst also enabling them to develop new skills.

“It was great when people actually started to listen to our ideas” Luke aged 18

While young people may not use the word ‘play’ to describe their own activities, they still need the time, space, freedom and opportunity to have choice and control in what they do. This strategy supports ‘play’ in the widest sense for all children and young people.

“Children and young people with disabilities want more than a token ramp or a few pieces of sensory equipment to be regarded as inclusion. They need there to be suitable planning, provision, support and opportunities for ALL children, young people and their families to enjoy themselves in play and free time activities” Caroline Pringle Accuro

The HYPAP endorses the definition of play as agreed through consultation by the Essex Play Network. Play is....

- Freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child and young person
- Something that can be fun or serious. It is sometimes joyful; sometimes risky; often memorable
- A natural impulse and is what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for own reasons
- A natural way for children and young people to learn and develop in their own time and in their own way
- An essential and intrinsic part of growing up

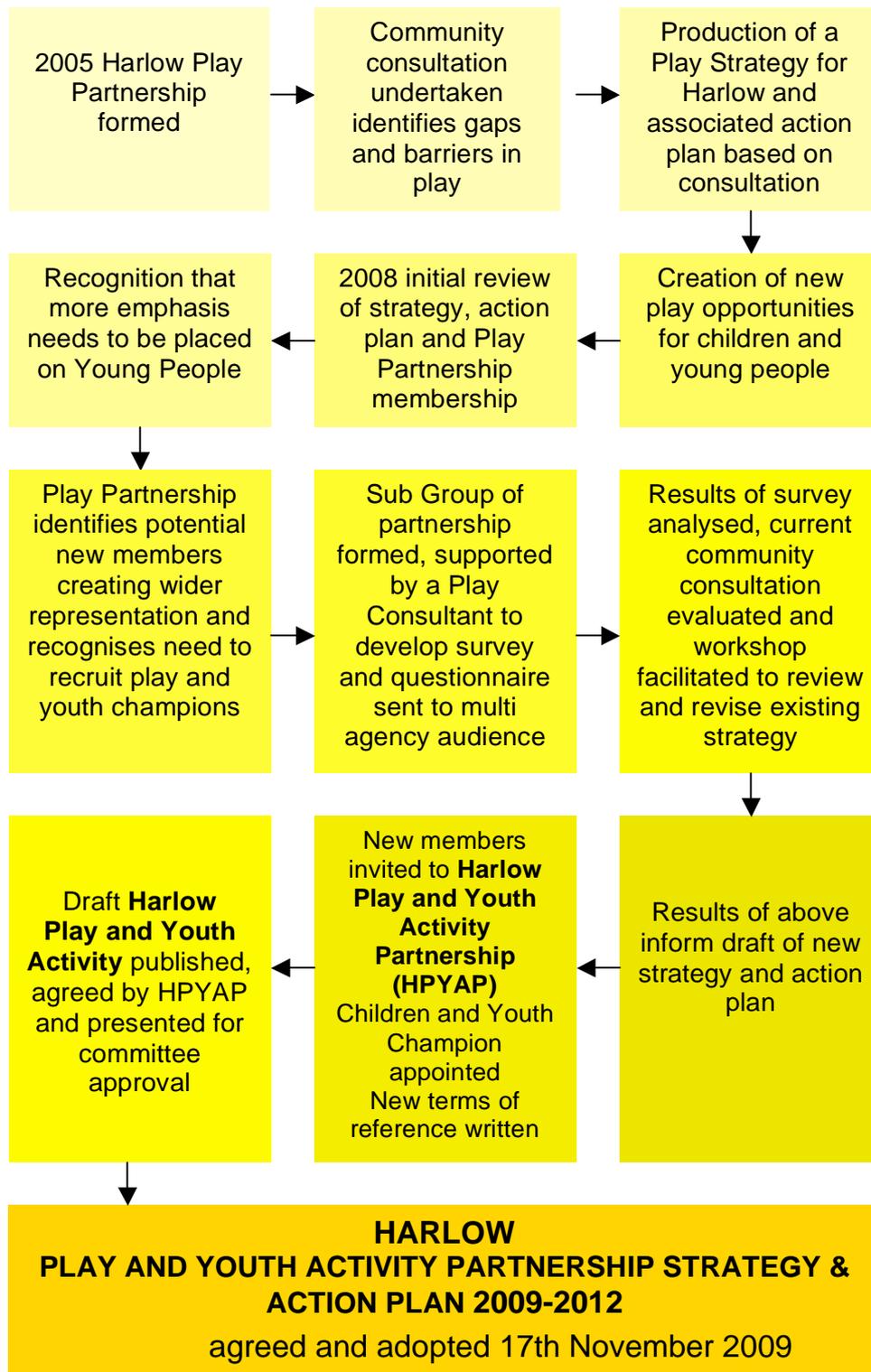
The key elements of play are as follows:

- It can take place alone or with others
- It does not rely on equipment or resources but may be enhanced and extended by these
- It usually begins as a spontaneous action or behaviour, but some children and young people may need support to play
- It helps children and young people to learn social and cultural norms and roles
- Children and young people can learn from their own and other’s play
- Humans of all ages play
- ‘Play needs’ change with age
- Play often involves humour
- Play can provide catharsis and aids psychological development
- Play serves as an outlet for emotions
- Play allows children and young people to develop as individuals and as members of the community
- Play has the power to re-engage disaffected children and young people

1.2 The need for a free play and free time activity strategy

Harlow has had a Play Strategy since 2005, originally written in response to government direction, identifying gaps in local play provision supported by audits and public consultation. The Strategy, Action Plan and Play Partnership was reviewed in 2008/9, the process is described through the following flow chart:

REVIEW PROCESS 2008/09



Now the review has been completed, we will meet quarterly and report on progress against the action plan and review actions.

Within the strategy review and rewrite of 2008/9 the Partnership identifies a number of cross cutting key themes impacting on the lives of all children and young people in relation to play and free time activities.

The purpose of the strategy and revised partnership is to bring together all the initiatives delivered across the town to continue to identify and meet gaps and implement a robust action plan to support free time activities for children and young people in the future.

The key themes and associated issues are to **reduce identified barriers to play, activity and participation by:**

1. Increasing access and decreasing barriers to enjoyable experiences in play and recreational opportunities for ALL children and young people across Harlow
2. Ensuring the Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy informs and influences future planning and design processes and that more children and young people participate in planning for play
3. Recognising the value of the natural environment through the Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy and encouraging its increased use for free play opportunities
4. Promoting and raising better awareness of the values of play strategically, operationally and publicly through partnership working
5. Offering children and young people stimulating, challenging and exciting environments for play encouraging acceptable risk

1.3 Strategy Aim and Objectives

To improve and increase opportunities for play and free time activities for children and young people in Harlow

To address the aim, the objectives of the revised Harlow Play and Youth Activity Strategy are:

1. **To listen to children and young people 0-18 yrs to identify their play and free time activity needs and wishes**
2. **To support the development of new and existing play provision across the town, meeting gaps and reducing barriers to play and free time activities**
3. **To aim to influence the placing of provision where it is needed and can be accessed**
4. **To support and promote high quality standards for all play opportunities**
5. **To work in partnership, at a strategic level with local and county agencies to ensure that the strategy reflects the changing needs and provision of activities in Harlow**
6. **To consult and engage with the local community**

The strategy aims to be a practical working tool, to be referred to whenever decisions about play are made. It is applicable to all forms of children and young people's services and other work impacting on children and young people's lives such as planning, road safety, health or policing.

Consequently the membership of the HPYAP has been broadened to include a wider footprint of those organisations involved in planning and delivery of services affecting children and young people. Some organisations may not attend regularly but will be consulted on issues being discussed.

1.4 Good Play Provision and Managing Risk

Play and free time activities are fundamental across all aspects of a child or young person's life. During an average term time week 33% of a child's time is spent in the classroom and 66% is spent undertaking other activities. During the year 75% of a child's waking time is 'out of school'. Two out of three 8-10 yr olds never go to the park or shops on their own and 33% never play out with their friends without an adult being present. Among 11-15 year olds, one in 10 never meet their friends outside the home without an adult being present and 24% never go to the park or local shops on their own.



Where does play take place? The simple answer is everywhere! Children and young people will use the journey on the way to and from school or college to play and socialise, they will play and congregate at home, in the street, on the road, in the parks – wherever they have access and feel comfortable. It is a sad fact that many designated play spaces are underused because children do not feel comfortable or safe.

This strategy recognises that play and free time activity should not be limited by adult intervention, and that children and young people need access to spaces and places where they can run, climb, skip, hide, play with ropes, throw and kick balls, cartwheel, jump, make friends, fall out, dress up, take risks, pretend, dig holes, invent games, paint, explore nature, shout, get wet, climb trees or just hang out.

The HPYAP recognise the value and benefit of encouraging and allowing children and young people to take acceptable risk in play and free time activities, building their own resilience and gaining life skills. The strategy endorses Play Safety Forum Managing Risk in Play Provision summary statement:

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

The strategy recommends the 2009 publication 'Managing Risk in Play Provision' Implementation Guide, which is endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive who recognise the importance of play in children and young people's lives and their opportunities to learn about risk. *'HSE is pleased to comment on the Managing Risk in Play Provision Implementation Guide. Its application of risk-benefit assessments is a sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision.'* Barry Baker – HM Principle Inspector, Health and Safety Entertainment and Leisure Sector.

The strategy recognises that younger children and young people (up to 18 years) have different needs and wishes relating to risky activities. Younger children may be satisfied to test their abilities within acceptable adult boundaries, however young people may wish to test and challenge their own abilities undertaking what is regarded as unacceptable risks.



Therefore the partnership has identified and agrees to encourage risks and hazards in play provision as those that engage and challenge children and young people supporting their growth, learning and development. It also identifies and will discourage bad risks and hazards that are difficult or impossible for children and young people to assess themselves, and that have no obvious benefits.

The strategy and partnership promote the seven key objectives identified within Best Play that good play provision:

- Extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it
- Recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need
- Manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm
- Maximises the range of play opportunities
- Fosters independence and healthy self-esteem
- Fosters the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction
- Fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn

2. THE VALUE AND BENEFITS OF PLAY AND FREE TIME ACTIVITY

Play and free time activity provides a mechanism for children and young people to explore the world around them and is the medium through which skills are developed and practised. It is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth, intellectual and educational development and acquiring social and behavioural skills including resilience, the ability to get up and try again.

The strategy encourages all children and young people to have choice and control of their activities, but recognises that the type of activity will vary greatly depending on the age and ability of individuals. Young children and toddlers will require a greater depth of supervision whilst children aged 8-13 are beginning to explore the world around them and want to test their own boundaries. Young people aged 14 upwards may choose to congregate and socialise in their own way which may not be seen as 'play' by many adults, and in certain cases may not be seen as acceptable.

Other children and young people may not use provision or take up opportunity due to the barriers they have both real and perceived.

'Teenagers, their parents and communities all want more positive things to do and better places to go for young people. And when young people are involved in activities and are busy they are less likely to drift into trouble, cause a nuisance or commit crime, but currently up to a quarter of young people do not take part in any form of positive activities, most often because they are not interested in what is available'. Youth Matters 2005

This strategy is designed to reduce barriers to participation and increase play and free time opportunities for Harlow. Through the provision of exciting and innovative approaches children and young people are given alternatives and choices resulting in a range of benefits, some of which are tangible and others more subtle.

It has been shown that where well-used youth activities have been provided, there can be a reduction in youth crime and anti social behaviour. Children using a challenging play environment will benefit physically and mentally and younger children given the opportunity to explore and experiment in their play develop language and social skills more quickly.

This strategy is not designed to meet any of these specific targets, however the HPYAP recognise the contribution that play and free time opportunities offer and will work closely in partnership with other agencies to ensure consistency in approach and joint projects take place as appropriate.

Article 31 of The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child recognises the importance of play for the child, and states 'Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.'

Mental Health and Well-Being

'Many of the attributes by play are found to be helpful in developing resilience. Those children who have good communication skills, a positive attitude, a problem solving approach and the capacity to reflect tend to be more resilient. The ability to plan, a belief in control, a sense of humour are all qualities that can lead to resilience' (Best Play P10) Mental Health Foundation, 1999.

Mental health later in life is clearly linked to engagement in play as a child. The level of resilience built up by the child affects their ability to cope with stressful and traumatic experiences during their teenage years and adulthood.

Physical Health and Well-Being

'Physical activity involved in most play and free time activities provides exercise, promotes physical coordination and develops skills. The tendency of many parents to over-protect their off spring also has worrying implications. Once normal activities such as roaming about with friends, or even simply walking unescorted to and from school, are becoming increasingly rare. The activities of children are monitored and constrained to ensure that they come to no harm. They also take less exercise, becoming fat and unfit.' (Best Play, p12).

'Physical activity is known to have a positive impact on both physical and mental health. An active lifestyle reduces the risk of chronic disease and can also benefit mental health by reducing feelings of anxiety and depression. It can improve body image and self confidence, and can contribute towards reducing the harm caused by substance misuse; providing a period of time when young people are engaged in positive activities and need to be free from drugs or alcohol'.

NYHS National Youth Homelessness Scheme September 2007.

Benefits for Families and the Wider Community – as mentioned in Best Play, deprivation of play can lead to several problems for the child later in life, and these effects also project onto the community as a whole.

With a *'poorer ability to deal with stressful or traumatic situations'* (Best Play, p13), anger management might become a problem for the child and can be due to frustration at not being able to deal with such situations. This can lead to low self-esteem and feelings of hopelessness honed by the lack of ability to concentrate in educational settings, all of which promotes higher rates of anti-social behaviour.

It is important to recognise barriers to play for many children, which may lead to play deprivation. This includes those who are acting as young carers to siblings and parents, additionally it recognises the need of disabled children who face access barriers including social, emotional, attitudinal or physical. These children are restricted in their free time activities and the play strategy action plan aims to support all children to play freely and without fear. The benefits of play for such children include the ability to socialise, make friends, communicate better and helps to raise self esteem and confidence where these are often at a low ebb.

Case Study – The Rainbow Young Bus 2008

'Billy' is 11, he has learning difficulties and lives with Mum, Dad and younger sister. He currently attends primary school and is going to secondary school in September. Billy was described to us by his Mum as a quiet boy who lacks confidence, particularly when playing with other children and would rather spend time alone in his room rather than playing outside. At school he has a one-to-one support worker.

When Billy came onto the bus we found him to be quiet and not interested in anything the other children were doing. He attended sessions with both his Mum and sister after school, but only came because his Mum would bring along his younger sister! For the first few sessions Billy sat at the back of the bus alone, sometimes reading a book – just waiting for home time.

We noticed that after he had been to about 4 sessions, he would start to play on the X-Box, still alone but it was a step up from just waiting to go home. After a further 2 sessions, we found him playing football outside with a small group of children.

Mum's response was amazing, she said she could not believe the difference and that it was 'like a light bulb going on in his head'. Billy recognises that Monday's means a visit to the bus after school and he began to look forward and get really excited about being able to play with others. She also said that he was now looking forward to starting at secondary school in September because he had made friends with another boy at the bus who was starting at the same school.

The project really made a difference to Billy, allowing him to be himself, and with support and encouragement through play, helped him to grow in confidence and to socialise, communicate and make friends. Billy's self-confidence and self-esteem has been increased which has helped not only in play but within other areas of his life!



Whilst engaging in free play, children and young people are given choice and control over what they do, facets that are seldom given in any other aspect of life as a child. Away from the watch of parents and free to make up a world as they please, children can test boundaries and explore risk, gaining invaluable skills needed later in life.

3. CONTEXT

The HPYAP links to many other strategies, initiatives and policies. **Appendix 1** shows the National and County links and context in full, the summary of links appears below with full details of the local Harlow links.

LOCAL CONTEXT

a) Harlow 2020 Vision

Harlow 2020 is Harlow's Local Strategic Partnership, a voluntary Partnership which brings together representatives from the local Statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to address local Problems and produce a sustainable Community Strategy.

The vision for Harlow 2020 is:

A clean, safe, sustainable and healthy town with good educational prospects for its citizens, a variety of homes and jobs to meet local needs, and a range of sporting, leisure and cultural opportunities contributing to a higher quality of life.



Two objectives key to play are:

- To develop activities specifically for young people to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage involvement with the local community and positive behaviour
- To improve access to services run by groups of organisations working together, focussing on meeting children and young people's needs

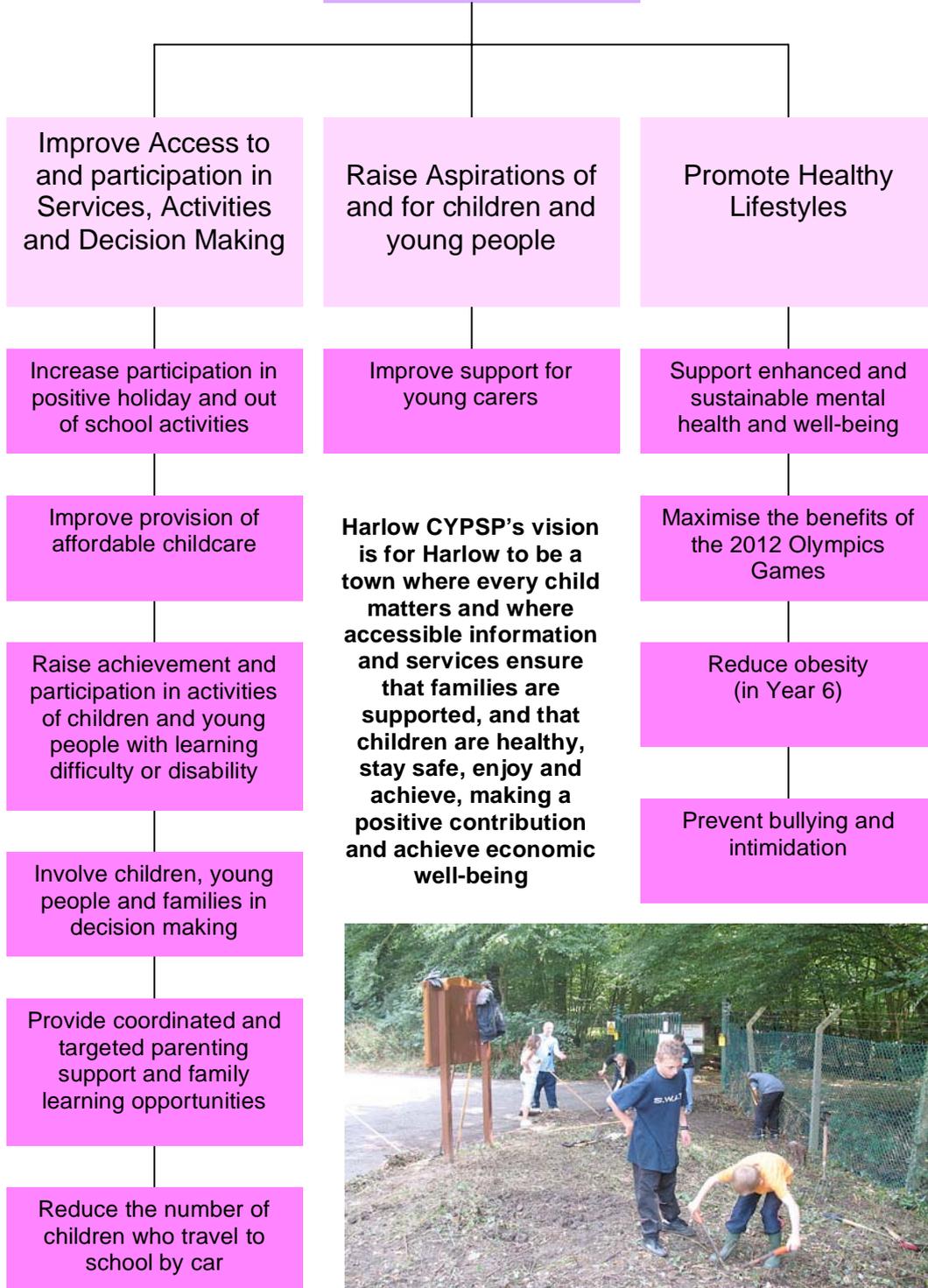
b) Harlow Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (Harlow CYPSP)

The partnership, a sub group of Harlow 2020, jointly plans local services to improve the quality of life for children and young people in Harlow. In Autumn 2005 it agreed four key aims, two of which relate to play:

- To develop activities for young people to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage involvement with the local community and positive behaviour
- To provide support and advice to raise children and young people's aspirations and their involvement in learning and work

The Harlow CYPSP has six priority areas of work, the following chart identifies how these priorities link to this strategy and are supported by the work of the partnership.

Harlow CYPSP



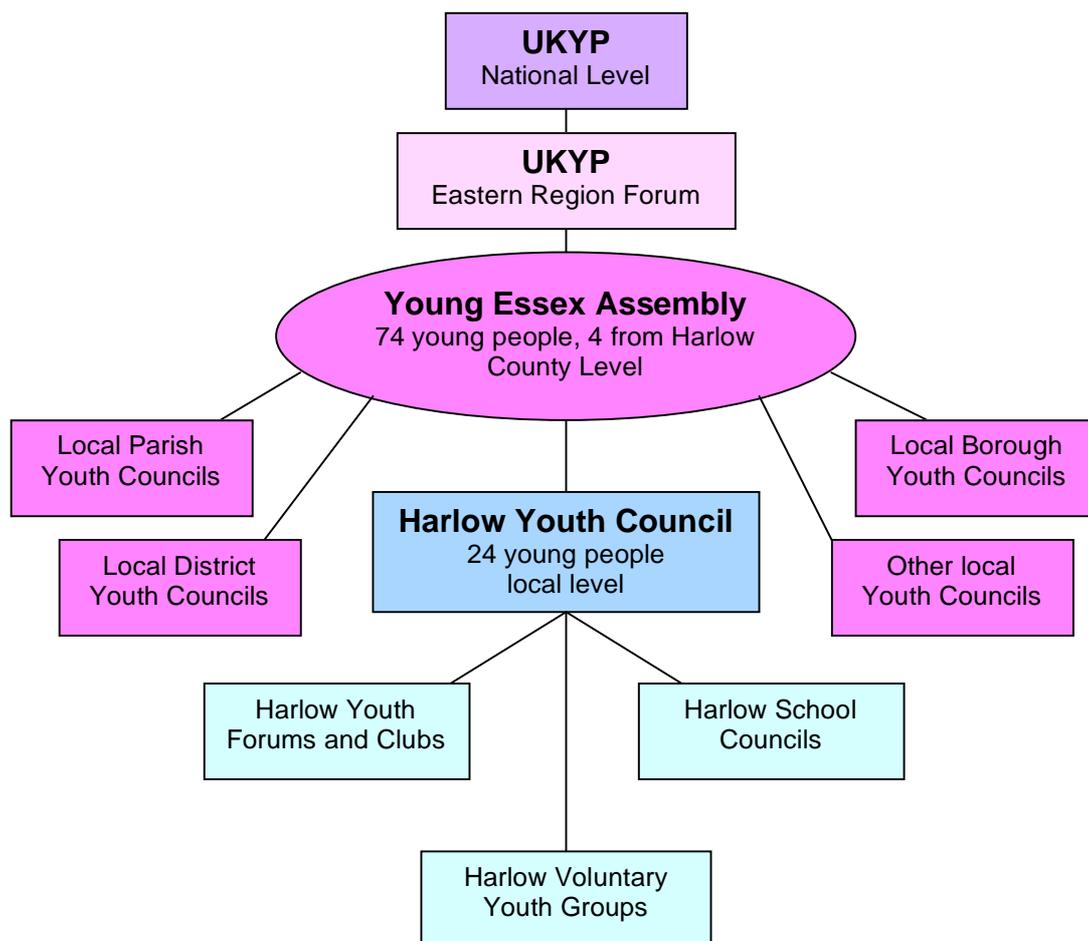
The Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership is a sub group of the Harlow Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.

c) Harlow Youth Council

Harlow Youth Council was formed in February 2002 when Harlow Council responded to the United National Rights of the child, Every Child Matters and the ‘Hear by Right’ principles of involving young people in the decision making process.

Harlow Youth Council is a locally elected group of 13-19 year olds who live in Harlow. As a group, they represent the views and voices of young people in the town. It is an opportunity for all young people to have their say about things in Harlow through their youth councillor, e.g. the need for better facilities, more things to do, or to contribute to local consultations.

The Harlow Youth Council link into other representative groups as follows:



A representative of the HPYAP feeds back into the Harlow Youth Council, the Youth Council attend HPYAP meetings as appropriate and are consulted on all relevant issues.

d) Community Cohesion Strategy

Harlow Council has developed a draft Community Cohesion Strategy. This will shortly be widely consulted upon and local communities will be involved in developing an action plan. The final strategy will be launched with a range of celebratory events under the banner of ‘Many Faces, One Harlow’.

Part of the strategy focuses on working with young people and supporting them by developing services they wish to see e.g. skate park and Café Youth.

e) Planning Strategies

Replacement Harlow Local Plan (Adopted July 2006)

The Local Plan (July 2006) establishes the principle that development can create the need for infrastructure, services and facilities both on-site or off-site. These include leisure and recreation facilities as well as community and social facilities. This is to ensure that wherever possible leisure and recreation facilities are made accessible to everyone including disabled people encouraging an active and healthy community. Relevant policies such as Policy L2- 'Open Space and Play Areas' and L3- 'Retaining, improving and developing recreational, leisure and sport facilities' confirms that facilities need to be provided, maintained and enhanced.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD provide further guidance on policies relating to open space, sport and recreational facilities in the Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan (July 2006). The main purpose of the document is to ensure that new housing developments incorporate adequate facilities to meet the needs of future occupants. Where on-site facilities are not appropriate, developers may be required to contribute towards improving and enhancement of strategic and existing play areas, leisure and recreation facilities in Harlow.

f) Regeneration Strategy and Implementation Plan (2007-2009)

The draft East of England Plan identifies Harlow as a Key Centre for Development and Change, thereby promoting the renaissance of the town through developing its role as a major housing growth point, major town centre and strategic employment location to 2021 and beyond. Regeneration and redevelopment of the existing town and urban extensions will be combined with transport measures, enhancements and infrastructure improvements and additional community, leisure and recreational facilities. The strategy identifies 6 key priority areas, the 4th relating to 'Homes, Neighbourhoods and Quality of Life' which identifies the need to continue to develop and implement projects that provide a range of culture, heritage and leisure assets for residents and visitors. Any new proposed housing development or urban extension will need assets for play provision.

g) Harlow Ball Games Strategy

The Ball Games Strategy was the result of community tensions from the playing of ball games in residential areas. It defines the way forward to allow all members of the community to have an understanding and an appreciation of the issues. The strategy also offers ways that solutions can be found by negotiation and mutual agreement e.g. designating play zones and agreeing what type of play is acceptable in that area supporting the draft Community Cohesion Strategy.

h) Harlow Green Spaces Strategy

The Green Spaces Strategy is concerned with a wide variety of spaces in the town. With regard to play the following are important linkages:

- Open spaces and their access and rights of way
- Green wedges and green belt
- Grassland with unlimited access
- Parks and gardens
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)
- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)



- Playing fields
- Grass football playing fields with community use

i) The Safer Harlow Partnership

The Safer Harlow Partnership comprises of local organisations and groups working together to reduce crime, disorder and the misuse of drugs in the town. It is led by Harlow Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, NHS West Essex, Essex Fire & Rescue Service and the Essex Police Authority, but includes many other local bodies such as Essex Probation, Victim Support, the Youth Offending Team, Essex Youth Service, Neighbourhood Watch and residents groups. It is a sub-group of the Harlow 2020 Local Strategic Partnership.

As discussed earlier within the strategy, play and free time activities should happen for their own sake, however the sub benefits of children and young people being given something to do and somewhere to go support findings from the 'Working Together for a Safer Harlow' Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008.

Main concerns:

Vandalism, Rubbish and Litter, Youth Nuisance

Main worries:

Youth Nuisance, Vehicle Crime, Burglary

Why worried:

Lack of visible police presence, personal and peer experience

Perceived causes of Crime:

Lack of visible police presence, young people with nothing to do, alcohol and drug dealing

Perceptions of safety:

Only 18% felt safe in the town centre at night

Anti Social behaviour led to higher fear levels, than experience of actual crime

The HPYAP supports and will work in partnership with other organisations to help meet Aim 4 of the Safer Harlow Partnership Strategy:

To prevent and Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

- To promote a range of preventative measures through partnership working
- To support youth and community engagement in combating anti-social behaviour, by developing positive publicity, reporting and victim support systems

4. CURRENT PLAY AND FREE TIME ACTIVITY PROVISION IN HARLOW

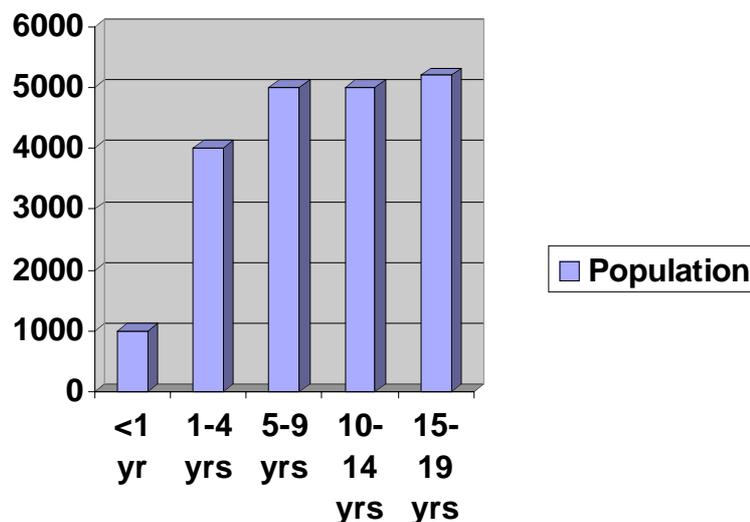
Play and free time activity is essential to allow the children and young people of Harlow to grow up having had access to a wide range of opportunities. This section includes summaries of information; please note where full sets of information appear in the appendices.

4.1 Profile of Harlow

Harlow is a post World War II town that celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2007. In 2005 the town had a total population of 77,000 with 20,200 under the age of 19 (ONS Crown Copyright Reserved). The population is projected to rise to 80,000 by 2011.

There are a number of Eastern European families living in the area and it is important to recognise language barriers existing for these families. Harlow has been

identified as a growth point in the draft East of England Plan and the Panel's Recommendations reaffirmed the position of Harlow as a Key Centre for Development and Change and providing a total of 16,000 additional dwellings by 2021 in and around the town.



Harlow is made up of 11 wards, each designed as a neighbourhood with local facilities, surrounding the main town centre. The population of Harlow is mainly White British with two established ethnic minority groups, Chinese and Jewish and two permanent Traveller sites, however, privately-owned rental property marketed in East London has seen an increase in Black and Asian residents recently.

4.2 Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership (HPYAP)

Harlow has a strong local Play and Youth Activity Partnership, established in December 2005, which links into the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and the Harlow Youth Council. The group meets a minimum of 6 times per year to define, consult, implement and review the strategy.

Although the strategy emphasises the need for the '3 frees', play encompasses all areas of a child's life within school and the school playground, out of school and within childcare. Therefore the invitation to membership is extended to all organisations supporting children and young peoples' play and free-time activity.

Membership of the partnership may vary from time to time and some groups/individuals will only attend occasionally to discuss specific areas of work that are relevant to their own roles.

The Partnership has a dual role to oversee activities and to act as an influencing body to promote good practice in relation to children and young people's play and free time activities. Membership is open to a Core Group and a Reference group who provide expertise, information, advice and guidance as appropriate. The full terms of reference appear in **Appendix 2**, including the full list of Core and Reference Members.

The HPYAP membership each have a responsibility to represent play in all other meetings and groups they attend. **Appendix 3** identifies these groups.

The Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership is an active member of the Essex CC Play Partnership that brings the 12 districts of Essex together to share ideas and

resources. This will affect such areas as performance indicators, consultation and countywide policy. Reports from the County group are fed back into the HPYAP.

4.3 Play Audit

A full play audit appears as **Appendix 4**, the following summary identifies play and free time activities that meet the key 3 frees:

- Free of charge
- Free at point of entry
- Free for children and young people to choose what they wish to do

There are a range of activities staffed and unstaffed, ranging from designated play and free time activity areas, parks and open access natural play environments, staffed projects, clubs and supervised activities.

The summary identifies the provision available for all ages, 0-5 yr olds, 5-13 yr olds and 13-19 yr olds. It is recognised that these ages are loose, and that children and young people will naturally challenge themselves and often want to participate in other activities.

The HPYAP will undertake a review of the audit annually to ensure it is correct and to help identify gaps in provision to inform the annual review of the Action Plan.

Activities available in Harlow for All Ages (in alphabetical order)

- Art and the New Town
- Cycle Networks
- Extended Schools Activities
- Fixed play equipment in 39 sites
- Forest Funtasia
- Free football coaching
- Get Fit, Bring the Kids
- Harlow Museum free activity sessions
- Harlow Play Day
- Harlow Town Show (free activities)
- Jack Petchey Arts Showcase
- KICKZ project
- Paddling Pools (accompanied children under 8s)
- Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, including Nature Club after school activities
- Sculpture Trail
- Skate park
- Town Park and Pets Corner
- Window Works



Activities available in Harlow for 0-5s

- Parent and child family support at Sam's Place
- Children's Centres provide:
- Family Drop In Sessions
- Gardening
- Gym Bunnies
- Messy Play
- Music Wrigglers and Music Shakers
- Play Sessions



- Tadpoles (under 1s social group)
- The Rainbow Young Bus
- Tigger Tots (parents and toddlers for young parents)
- Young Parents – groups for young parents free activities for young children

Activities in Harlow for 5-13 yrs olds

- ADAS – for young people affected by drug or alcohol related domestic violence
- Extended Schools Activities
- KICK (12+)
- Paddling Pools
- Parndon Wood Nature Reserve – Acorn Group (12-17)
- Parndon Wood Nature Reserve – Nature Club
- Sam's Place Too (OFSTED registered) resource centre for families where there is a Disabled Child (referral only) Holiday Activities, Saturday Scheme for children 5-19
- Tennis and Basketball Courts
- The Rainbow Young Bus
- Town Park and Pets Corner

Activities in Harlow for 13 yrs upwards

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Get into football
- Grove Youth Club (13-19 yrs olds)
- Harlow Youth Club
- Kick Walls x 3
- KICKZ project
- Live Wire Drama Group
- Parndon Wood Nature Reserve – Acorn Group (12-17)
- Sam's Place Too (OFSTED registered) resource centre for families where there is a Disabled Child (referral only) Holiday Activities, Saturday Scheme for children 5-19
- Sam's Place Open Youth Club
- Sam's Place Youth Club
- Saved by the Bell – after school club for young people with special needs
- Skate Park
- Street Scene Champs (SSC) Allotment Project
- Tennis and Basketball Courts
- The Grove Youth Centre
- The Square, Fourth Avenue – range of activities for young people
- Xperience Centre – Open Youth Club
- Young Parents – groups for young parents to bring their children to
- Youth Shelters



5. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A wide range of consultation has been carried out to inform and influence this strategy and to help identify the barriers to participation and the gaps in provision. This has in turn informed the development of the HPYAS Action Plan. The following is a summary of the consultation. Full details can be found in **Appendix 5**

5.1 Consultation Methodology

A range of partner organisations both at local and county level carried out the consultation using a variety of methods, these included:

- Employment of a consultant to engage with children aged 5-13 using creative and interactive methods including play, arts and activities. 1,174 children were consulted including 243 young people attending schools for those with additional requirements
- Public Surveys led by MORI, information relating to play and free time activities was extracted from the survey, specifically around current playgrounds and views on play provision. 1024 adults and 100 primary school pupils were surveyed
- Questionnaires were used to garner views from parents, representing 195 children
- Surveys were carried out by young people with 545 young people via the Harlow Youth Council using opportunities such as the Harlow Youth Festival
- Focus Groups sought opinion from 120 children, young people and professionals including 1:1 interviews
- School based consultation was carried out in Junior and Secondary Schools where 379 children and young people were consulted using games, pictures, interviews and questionnaires
- Information was extracted from a county wide survey of 3,700 children where individuals were asked how they spend their free time, safety factors, playmates, facilities and what would make their lives better. 298 respondents were from West Essex.
- Parent interviews based at the school/nursery gates using simple indicator systems for parents to prioritise the importance of statements, 1:1 discussion and completion of questionnaires asking for ideas for new activities.

Future consultation will be carried out at play and free time activity events such as Play Day, Family Activity Sessions, festivals and events. Partners continue to undertake local consultation based geographically or around a community of interest eg. schools. The findings from this will continue to inform the HPYAS Action Plan.

5.2. Consultation Findings

During the strategy we have emphasised the importance of putting the child or young person at the centre of the process, the following outlines the findings from the consultation:

Special schools consultation - what children and young people said:

- More play equipment, though not especially complex or costly items
- Existing playground facilities maintained and supervised
- Opportunities to engage in art and drama activities for exploring experimenting and expressing themselves; dance and music in particular

Primary School Pupils said:

- Lack of cleanliness is the most frequently cited criticism of current play provision
- Some children from ethnic minority communities feared racist abuse on some playgrounds
- Children are enjoying school and value choice
- Traditional pastimes are still popular
- Worry mostly about life changes and personal safety
- Happy in Harlow and appreciate its environment but have some concerns
- Do not feel entirely safe about teenagers and 'strange people'
- Regret the loss of facilities and blame the council
- When asked 'what might encourage you to exercise more?' fun activities came out top for West Essex children
- When asked 'How did you spend your time yesterday after school?' Girls in West Essex mostly watched TV, followed by helping at home and caring for pets. Boys watched TV, played computer games, played sport or helped at home
- Asked, 'Do you think there is enough to do near where you live?' Just over a half were satisfied
- 4 out of 5 children and young people were allowed to play outside either in the street or park
- Using a play park was the most popular venue for both boys and girls.
- Excellent facilities in West Essex were the shops, cinema, play park and children's clubs. The highest response to 'we don't have any?' was Skate Park
- 'What one thing would help make children's lives better?' In West Essex the answer was more/better play areas including park or play park

Secondary school children said:

- Lack of optimism about Harlow as a place to live
- Harlow has mainly low-grade work opportunities
- Fast food culture and lack of facilities are main barriers to healthy lifestyle
- Violent and antisocial behaviour a major concern
- Worry most about personal image and safety
- Seek more respect for their views
- Want more activities and involvement in how they are run and managed

Young people interviewed by Harlow Youth Council said:

- 81% did not think there were enough social events targeted at young people
- Venues are used mostly once a term (45%) followed by monthly (24%)
- The main reasons they are attracted to these venues are music, fun, people and friends and socialising
- Days when there should be something to do are Friday (27%), Saturday (29%) and Sunday (19%)
- 79% think there are not enough youth facilities in Harlow
- 7pm start and 11.30pm finish were the most popular times
- 79% would go to a youth café/bar
- 62% would prefer both a bar and a café
- Music (54%) would attract them followed by the atmosphere (22%)
- 91% want food to be served
- 80% want hours to differ between school and non-school days

Consultation carried out with parents and carers showed:

- Concern about availability of facilities and activities for older children
- Concern regarding anti social behaviour as a result of boredom
- Need to diminish bullying and the fear of playing out for smaller children
- Safety in the open spaces, structured games, supervised games, engagement for teenagers and young people, are seen as the key to opening up the public outside spaces for the whole community
- In the parks the upkeep, upgrading and maintenance of existing facilities rate highly in improving accessibility for all
- More opportunities for children and young people to engage in art and drama activities for exploring, experimenting and expressing themselves were requested
- The most important topics for the play strategy were more/better places for older children and quality playgrounds
- Need for exciting play for all ages
- Need for more activities for young children and babies
- Need to reduce litter/dog mess/glass in play areas

General Community Consultation

- Play provision is relatively high on the agenda of many Harlow residents
- In the 2003 Nortoft report, on a net satisfaction/dissatisfaction rating for play provision Harlow at +4% scored well below the average of +29% for other local authorities. At this time a focus group on play in Harlow indicated that people will walk for up to 20 minutes to reach a good quality play area and concluded that there should be fewer sites, but with improved facilities in the Town
- The Ball Games Strategy consultation showed the need for a code of conduct to be drawn up for all members of the community to give guidance on what ball play is acceptable and where
- The consultation highlighted the need for designated 'play zones' and showed strong support for more kick walls to be installed. Full neighbourhood consultation was seen as key before any changes were introduced.

6. KEY FINDINGS

6.1 Key Findings: Play Audit

The play audit undertaken in section 4.3 identified that Harlow provides a range of free play provision and activities for children and young people aged between 0-18. Key findings from the play audit include: -

- Extensive fixed play equipment is available town wide, Harlow Council has recently invested over £1.4m in a major refurbishment programme.
- The review has examined the quality, safety, disabled access, 'play value' and accessibility of Fixed Play Equipment. Section 4.3 outlines the Local Standards of Provision for Fixed Play Equipment in Harlow, 2 standards identifies that:
 - at least one NEAP is within 15 minutes walk of the whole population
 - one LEAP is within 5 minutes walk of the whole population
- There are limited free play activities for children and young people at the weekends

- There is limited access to innovative and challenging play activities during the summer holidays, the majority of play activities tend to run during school term times
- Although existing play provision targets all age groups, young people (13-18) tend not to use fixed play provision, as they perceive equipment to be provided for younger children. Apart from the Skate Park, there are no designated play provision areas or place for older young people. There needs to be more choice of play provision to cater for a wider audience of young people
- Under 5s play provision includes fixed playground equipment and activities at the Children Centres. There needs to be more choice of play opportunities to cater for a wider audience of children under 5
- There is limited play provision for children and young people with additional needs the current provision is oversubscribed

6.2 Key Findings from the Consultation

Results from the consultation at Section 5.2 conclude the following:

Primary issues:

- More activities/places to go for teenagers
- Quality free open access play parks are important
- More structured/supervised play to decrease barriers to participation including fear of bullies, anti social behaviour and personal safety
- More activities for babies and younger children
- A greater emphasis on inclusive opportunities for children and young people currently under using services including those with additional needs, ethnic minorities and travellers
- More innovative play opportunities including opportunities for challenge and risk

6.3 Themes

The results of the analysis conclude that there are several themes in which to extend/improve future play provision: challenging and innovative play opportunities; activities for older young people and raising the importance of play for children and young people. These themes have now been encapsulated into the Partnership's overarching outcomes and incorporated in the Action Plan.

1. Increase access and decrease barriers to enjoyable experiences in play and recreational opportunities for ALL children and young people across the District of Harlow
2. Ensure The Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy informs and influences future planning and design processes and that more children and young people participate in planning for play
3. Recognise the value of the natural environment through the Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy and encourage its increased use for free play opportunities
4. Promote and raise awareness of the values of play strategically, operationally and publicly through partnership working
5. Provide more children and young people with stimulating, challenging and exciting environments for play encouraging acceptable risk

7. AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR DEVELOPMENT

During 2006/7 a number of areas were identified for development, these appear in full within **Appendix 6**. In 2009 a review was carried out to identify areas of work that will continue and new areas of work to further meet the gaps and issues identified within the consultation and audit.

Some of these are aspirational depending upon funding and others are continuation of existing activities or the development of new ones.

Suggestions were taken to a multi agency HPYAP workshop to identify priorities for the next 3 years based on the primary issues and key themes, these have then been written into the Action Plan for this strategy.

8. CONSULTATION

The original Play Strategy for Harlow was endorsed by the partnership. Public consultation was undertaken as follows:

- Public consultation (Harvey Centre Shopping Centre)
- Posting the draft on Harlow Council website www.harlow.gov.uk and www.visitharlow.com for comment
- Invitation for public comment in local papers
- Invitation to Councillors to comment
- Harlow Town Show, 2nd September 2002 attended by approximately 20,000 people
- Youth Council, Café Youth and YPIC
- Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- Children Centre's – targeting parents

The revised Harlow Play and Youth Activity Strategy has been reviewed by members of the HPYAP and other key Stakeholders.

Additionally a Children and Young People's version of the strategy has been written which is being reviewed by children attending the HPYAP direct delivery services.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

There are two aspects of monitoring and evaluation, first the strategy itself will be evaluated and reviewed by the HPYAP annually to ensure it is still meeting the requirements of all partners and reflects the changing needs and wishes of the children and young people of Harlow. This will be done in the form of an annual workshop where the strategy and action plan will be assessed at the same time.

The Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated in several ways:

Each action has been written with SMART targets, how the targets are achieved is up to the individual organisation/agency undertaking the work.

These organisations/agencies are responsible for reporting on their projects to the HPYAP on a quarterly basis, they will also be responsible for providing written reports to the organisation/agency providing the funding. If the funding has been

accessed through the HPYAP then written reports on how they are meeting the outcomes of the project will be provided to the Chair of the Partnership. The HPYAP will look to lead organisations to provide information on any consultation undertaken with the service users and also to provide examples of good practice that can be used to promote and raise the profile of play in Harlow.

There are a number of actions within the plan that are specialist, for instance providing advice, information and support to agencies relating to inclusion. These targets are not project based but are essential to ensure good quality standards are maintained across the play and free time provision within Harlow. Each of these actions will have a named lead, this lead will report verbally to the Partnership at each meeting outlining any work achieved and indicating any future developments that need to take place.

There will be an annual celebration of Play taking place during the summer alongside the National Play Day celebrations. During this time the HPYAP will be publicising the work of the partnership and publicly celebrate action plan target achievements. The HPYAP will review the strategy and action plan each Spring.

What Happens Next



10. ACTION PLAN

Harlow Play Partnership – Action Plan Exercise April 2009

The Harlow Play Partnership Group has developed the Action Plan 2007 - 2012 and addressed the gaps and themes identified by the partnership agencies in response to Government and local direction. The action plan identifies the key priorities and outcomes to create exciting play opportunities and activities for children and young people. The Action Plan has been written to support and reduce barriers to participation in play and youth activities in Harlow.

The Harlow Play and Youth Activity Partnership (HPYAP) will monitor the Action Plan at each quarterly partnership meeting. A full review and updates will be undertaken annually as new activities are developed and existing ones are completed. We have set out clear targets for the forthcoming year:

- Reduce identified barriers to play, activity and participation by:
 - Increasing access and decreasing barriers to enjoyable experiences in play
 - Ensuring that recreational opportunities for ALL children and young people across Harlow are available
- Ensure the Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy informs and influences future planning and design processes and that more children and young people participate in planning for play.
- Recognize the value of the natural environment through the Harlow Play & Youth Activity Strategy and encourage its increased use for free play opportunities.
- Promote and raise better awareness of the values of play strategically, operationally and increase publicity through partnership working.
- Offer and provide more children and young people with stimulating, challenging and exciting environments for play encouraging risk
- Recognise the importance of linking play into District and County agendas, the action plan identifies where the links are made to the following:

Strategy documents that link to play

We recognise the importance of linking play into District and County agendas, the action plan identifies where the links are made to the following:

1. Extended School Strategy
2. Essex Local Area Agreement
3. Essex Children and Young Peoples' Plan
4. Harlow 2020 Vision
5. Harlow CYPSP
6. Planning Strategy
7. Open Space, Sports and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document
8. Regeneration Strategy and Implementation Plan
9. Harlow Green Spaces Strategy
10. Ballgames Strategy
11. Playground Improvement Strategy

THE HARLOW PLAY PARTNERSHIP REVISED ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE IDENTIFIED BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Activity/Action Current Play and Free time Activity funded by the Big Lottery	Focus age group	Lead Org	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Timescale	Resources	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to parti- cipation	Progress/ Issues
DIRECT DELIVERY OF PLAY AND FREETIME ACTIVITIES								
1. Continue to support direct deliver projects meeting the 3 frees across the district	Varies	HYAPP	S	Ongoing	varies	ALL	ALL	Discussed at each HYAPP meeting, specific monitoring taking place again individual milestones
1a. The Rainbow Young Bus	Under 5s	Rainbow Services	S		Play Strategy	4,5,6	4a, 4d and 4e	
1b. The Rainbow Young Bus	5-13 years	Rainbow Services	S		ECC – Children's Fund as was	2,3,4,5,6		

<p>1c. Forest Funtasia – Free play provision for children and young adults in a natural environment. Encouraging and supporting freedom of choice in environmental activities for children and adults of all ages.</p> <p>1d. Youth Cafe</p>	0 - 17 yrs	Harlow Council	L/S	1 st April 2008 – 31 st March 2011	Big Lottery	<p>4 - Highly participative and aspirational environment to ensure that children and young people lead positive and fulfilling lives.</p> <p>5 - Public open spaces: To enhance our open spaces and improve the way they are used, to meet the needs and aspirations of local people</p> <p>9 - Improved leisure facilities including a new community leisure centre for the Town and improved playing facilities across the town. Ongoing investment in the Town's green infrastructure to ensure maximise its use and enjoyment as an environmental asset</p>	4a, 4c, 4d,4e	Project started 1 st April 2008. Project Officer Leanne Block employed for 3 years. Delivery of actions being achieved including free play opportunities in natural environment at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve
1e. Children's equipped play areas. Providing 39 equipped play sites across Harlow.	0-17yrs	Harlow Council	Lead	Ongoing	Harlow Council	<p>4 – as above</p> <p>5 – as above</p> <p>9 – as above</p>		<p>Improved equipped play area provision as part of Playground Improvement Strategy up to 2005</p> <p>New site proposed for Larkwood expected to be in place by Easter 2009</p> <p>Improved further provision for disabled limited by funding restraints</p>
1f. Provision of sports pitches & open spaces for sports, games & recreation	0-17 years	Harlow Council	Lead	Ongoing	Harlow Council	4, 5, 9		Baseball Diamond facility at Northbrooks Number of playing pitches for informal use
1g. Town Park, Nature Reserves, local parks & open spaces	0-17 years	Harlow Council	Lead	Ongoing	Harlow Council	4, 5, 9		<p>Free play opportunities</p> <p>Town Park masterplan may help to deliver increased opportunities by providing resources & funding including</p>

								extra staff. HLF Lottery bid submitted
1h. Summer Holiday Project	Children with a disability aged 5 to 19	Accuro				2, 4, 6	4e	Has operated annually for last 8 years. No. of children accessing it determined by funding – some unmet need each year. 34 children from Harlow accessed it in 2008.
1i. Pets Corner	0-16	Harlow Council		Ongoing	Harlow Council	10	4a,4c,4e	
1j. Harlow Skatepark	5+	Harlow Council		Ongoing	Harlow Council, Sport England	5, 8, 10	4a, 4c, 4d, 4e	Complete. Free open access facility
1k. Paddling pools provision	0 – 14	Harlow Council		Annually - summer School Holidays	Harlow Council	8	4a, 4c, 4e	Free open access during summer holidays
1l. Jack Petchey Arts Showcase	U24s	Harlow Council		Annual event	Jack Petchey Foundation		4a, 4c, 4d, 4e	200 participants annually April/May.
1m. Window Works	Up to 19	Harlow Council/ Harlow Renaissance		Ongoing	Harlow Council, Harlow Renaissance, Awards for All		4a, 4b, 4d, 4e	Sessions for adults also take place

1n. Art and the New Town	U16s	Essex County Council/ Harlow Renaissance Harlow Council		Temporary exhibition	Essex County Council/ Harlow Renaissance	9	4a, 4c, 4d, 4e	Burnt Mill Year 9 project but Art and The New Town has an all ages remit
1o. Play Harlow	All Ages	Essex County Council/ Harlow Council		Summer 2009	Essex County Council		4a, 4c, 4d, 4e	In development
1p. Harlow Primary School installation	U11s	Harlow Council		Annual event and sessions	Harlow Council/HEC	2	4a, 4c, 4d, 4e	4 Week Easter project.

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

Future Activity Action	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Lead Partner	Timescale	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to participation	Resources
2. Research and apply for funding to employ a Play and Youth Activities Co-ordinator to support play across the District	L	Sub Group of P/ship (Maureen, Becci, Chris)	By end of May 2009	ALL	ALL	Potential CYPSP
3. Monitor and Review the BIG Lottery Children's Play Projects	L	HC (Ruth Lucas) and Service Providers	Quarterly until March 2010	ALL	ALL	BIG lottery
4. Influence the use of 106 funding to support the development of new play opportunities across Harlow	I	ALL	On-going	ALL	ALL	106 funding
5. Re-Map existing play provision across Harlow	S	HC and other partners	Low Priority			To be determined
6. Prepare for Play Builders Application 2010/2011	L	HC and other partners	High Priority			Time given by partners
Raise awareness of play across Harlow by:						
7. Review Harlow Play Strategy and revise to include Youth activities, ensuring all photographs used have written permission given for use.	L	Sub group of P/Ship/ External Consultant	Ready for publication summer 09	ALL	ALL	HDC
8. Review children's version of strategy to publish a 'short guide to the Harlow Play and Youth Activity Strategy'	L	Sub Group of P/ship	By August 2009	ALL	ALL	CYPSP
9. Publish and launch HPYAS by holding a play awareness month during August 2009 working with a range of partners	L	All and play day sub group	August 2009	ALL	ALL	CYPSP
10. Review Harlow Play and Youth Activity Strategy and action plan annually using annual CYP consultation, ensuring strategy reflects needs and wishes of local communities	L	Sub group of P/Ship	By May 2010	ALL	ALL	None required
11. Add a play page to Harlow Council Web and utilise existing websites to promote and publicise play	L	Sub group of P/ship (Claire and Chris)	By Sept 2009	ALL	ALL	Funding to be determined working with other partners

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

Future Activity Action	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Lead Partner	Timescale	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to participation	Resources
12. Run a children's competition to design a 'play logo' for Harlow and utilise on all publicity	L	Working with partners led by Darren	By summer 2009			CYPSP

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

Future Activity Action	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Lead Partner	Timescale	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to participation	Resources
13. Work with other agencies and partners to ensure all free play activities are widely publicised and raise the profile of play, providing consistent messages linked to Play and Youth Activity Strategy, advocate the use of the new 'play logo'	I	ALL P/ship	On going	ALL	ALL	Various
14. Publish a free play activities guide flyer to go into the simple quick guide to the strategy twice per year	L	Sub group of P/ship	Initial publication by summer 2009	ALL	ALL	CYPSP
15. Recruit a Play and Youth Activity Advocate and agree job description	L	ALL to consider	June 09 (prior to August play month)	ALL	ALL	None required
16. Increase membership of Harlow Play and Youth Activity Reference Group to actively involve those with wider sphere of influence	L	ALL	On-going	ALL	ALL	None required
17. Inform all Core and Reference Group members of HPYAP's work	L	HDC admin (Play Co-ordinator)	On-going	ALL	ALL	To be determined
18. Publicise play training opportunities available locally to ALL via website	L	Play Co-ordinator	Low Priority	ALL	ALL	To be determined
Support and develop opportunities for children and young people's consultation – keeping the child in the centre!						
19. Adopt Integrated Youth Service good practice guidelines on children and young people's consultation methods. Distribute amongst all Partners by running an awareness training session of CYP consultation and methodology led by the Youth Service	L/E	Sub group of P/ship	By Sept 09	1,2,3,4,5,6	ALL	To be determined

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

Future Activity Action	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Lead Partner	Timescale	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to participation	Resources
20. Run annual children and young people's consultation event annually during play day	S	Direct play providers on p/ship, questions developed by Sub Group of P/ship	Summer 09	1,2,3,4,5,6	ALL	CYPSP
21. Develop HPYAP questions to add to existing consultation to ensure appropriate information is gathered	L	Consultation sub group	Immediately	ALL	ALL	None required
22. Collate feedback and report to HPYAP quarterly, feed into review of strategy and action plan	L	Consultation sub group	On-going	ALL	ALL	None required
Increase opportunities for inclusive play across the District						
23. Adopt Essex Inclusion Toolkit for play and promote across the District through publicity, websites and through all partners	L/E	ALL	Summer 09	ALL	ALL	None required
24. Signpost opportunities for training relating to inclusion via 'play' website	L	Play Co-ordinator	Once in post	ALL	ALL	To be determined
25. Advocate to all providers that they take transport and travel into consideration when providing and publicising play	I	ALL	On-going	ALL	ALL	None required
Increase opportunities for Risk and Challenge in play across the District						
26. Formally adopt and promote 'Managing Risk in Play' DCSF publication written by Play England. Develop and publish good practice guidelines on encouraging risk in play through HPYAS	L	ALL	By Summer 2009	ALL	ALL	None required (undertaken within strategy)
27. Identify funding to run training courses open to ALL stakeholders on assessing the benefits versus the risk of play activities	L	HC	As soon as possible	ALL	ALL	To be determined

HARLOW PLAY AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

Future Activity Action	Partnership Role L=Lead E=Endorse S=Support I=Influence	Lead Partner	Timescale	Link to LOCAL Strategies and Plans	Link to Barriers to participation	Resources
28. Identify gaps in existing provision for 13+ age group via young people's consultation through existing providers, develop ideas into action plan and research funding opportunities to meet further needs	L	Fair Project lead on consultation	On-going	ALL	ALL	To be determined
Increase and encourage sustainable play at home						
29. Signpost parents and families to external resources to encourage home based play through websites including Harlow Kidz.biz (through HEC)	L	Play Co-ordinator	On-going			To be determined
30. Promote to ALL through the partnership the importance of developing family activities that can be replicated at home to support sustainable play	I	ALL	On-going			None required
31. Pet Art and Crafts: Group sessions with potential for one to ones depending on size of groups	L	Play Co-ordinator	Once in post. Sessions weekly during school holidays upto March 2012	ALL	ALL	£6,000 (applied to CYPSP)
32. Animal Families: Group sessions with potential for one to ones depending on size of groups	L	Play Co-ordinator	One session per month upto March 2012	ALL	ALL	