

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2013**

**REPORT BY:**       **HOUSING AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

**SUBJECT:**           **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLAYScheme TASK & FINISH GROUP**

**1.00   PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01   To present the recommendations of the Playscheme Task & Finish Group in order to provide sustainable play provision from April 2014 with reference to the summer play scheme programme.

**2.00   BACKGROUND**

2.01   The Playscheme Task & Finish Group was set up in January 2013 in order to consider arrangements for Playschemes for 2013 and beyond. The Membership of the group is as follows:-

- Cllr Marion Bateman
- Cllr Ron Hampson
- Cllr David Mackie
- Cllr Nancy Matthews
- Cllr Carolyn Thomas

2.02   Meetings of the Task & Finish Group are also attended by Lawrence Rawsthorne, Head of Culture & Leisure who provided specialist advice.

2.03   At its meeting held on the 5 September, 2013, the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered a report titled 'Play Development: Summer Play Schemes'. Following consideration of this report, the Committee recommended that the item be deferred to allow the Playscheme Task & Finish Group to meet and consider feedback from users of the 2013 Summer Playscheme and that the recommendations to provide sustainable play provision from April 2014 with reference to the summer play scheme programme be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

**3.00   CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01   The Playscheme Task & Finish Group met on the 18 November, 2013 to consider the feedback from users of the 2013 Summer Playscheme.

3.02 During discussion the Task & Finish Group all agreed that the Playschemes provided invaluable facilities for children during the summer holidays and emphasised the importance of the schemes for families who could not afford to take their children on holidays. The Group also emphasised the importance of the scheme in developing children's play, co-ordination and social skills.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee agree to recommend to the Cabinet that:-

- Subject to confirmation of *Families First* funding, the Head of Leisure and Culture write to all Town and Community Councils advising them that the number of Playschemes available to them during the summer of 2014 and beyond be limited to a maximum of two each and that summer Playscheme provision be reduced from five weeks to three weeks at locations previously agreed through local consultation.
- Town and Community Councils who are keen to increase the complement of Playscheme sites in their area above the 2 offered are given the opportunity to increase the provision through match funding.
- A pressure bid of up to £12,000 be allocated to support match funding for Town and Community Councils.
- If confirmation was received that there would be a reduction in *Families First* funding; the Playscheme Task & Finish Group should meet again to consider how best to provide sustainable play provision from April 2014 with reference to the summer play scheme programme.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The recommendations include a pressure bid of £12,000 which is not within budget. The recommendations are also subject to confirmation of grant funding from *Families First* and continued match funding support from Town and Community Councils.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Ongoing consultation with Town and Community Councils.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

**Contact Officer:** Ceri Owen  
**Telephone:** 01352 702305  
**Email:** [ceri.owen@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:ceri.owen@flintshire.gov.uk)