

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**           **PLAY PROVISION: SUMMER PLAYScheme 2014**

**1.00**   **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01    To present to Cabinet the recommendations of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee in order to provide sustainable play provision from April 2014 with reference to the summer play scheme programme.

**2.00**   **BACKGROUND**

2.01    A Playscheme Task & Finish Group was set up in January 2013 in order to consider arrangements for Playschemes for 2013 and beyond.

2.02    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. During the meeting the 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.

3.02    The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group were presented to the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 19 December, 2013 where they were supported to be recommended to the Cabinet.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 To consider the following recommendations of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee:-

- 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 were also subject to confirmation of grant funding from *Families First* and continued match funding support from Town and Community Councils. Families First funding has been confirmed for 2014. Town and Community Councils are confirming their commitment to the 2014 programme. The core 2014 programme (with no growth in provision) can be delivered without the additional £12,000 pressure bid.

#### **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 The Head of Culture and Leisure has been consulted.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

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

Minutes of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee 19  
December, 2013.

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