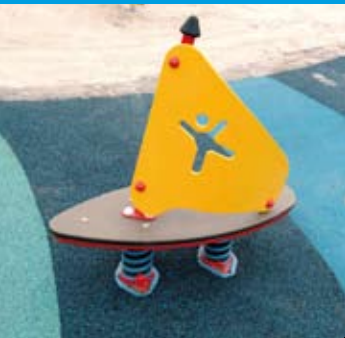


DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP

Outdoor Play & Youth Area

strategy 2009 - 2014



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foreword 1



We are committed to making Dundee a more child-friendly city. The provision of high quality outdoor play is a key element if we are to achieve that goal.

Through play, we build our own confidence; we develop our imagination/creativity. We learn to interact with others and to express ourselves. Play is one of the most important ways in which we learn, and when it is undertaken freely in a safe and challenging environment, it helps us to become effective adults.

The challenge of providing quality outdoor play experiences for young people is one that we recognise and one which can only be met with ongoing support from a range of partners. This document sets out a strategic framework for the development of outdoor play in Dundee. It is not a time-limited strategy, and many of the policy statements and recommendations contained in the document will have ongoing relevance. Progress, however, will be reviewed periodically and a report brought back to Dundee City Council for its information and approval.

The City Council with its partners look forward to working with children, their parents/carers and other agencies to create the kind of opportunities for play that will strengthen Dundee's citizens of the future.

Stewart Murdoch

Director of Leisure and Communities

Councillor Bob Duncan

Convener of Leisure, Arts & Communities

August 2009

foreword 2



Play is internationally acknowledged in law

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says:

“Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreation activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Member governments shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life, and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.”



Tam Baillie

Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People

I am delighted to provide a foreword for Dundee City Council's Play Strategy and particularly welcome its broad approach to play, recognising that play is not just about fixed equipment playgrounds, but is also about protecting children's rights to discover the physical and social world around them. I am also pleased to see the links made between play and wider agendas such as children's participation, building stronger communities, achieving economic wellbeing, addressing antisocial behaviour and inclusive play opportunities.

All too often policy makers trivialise play because they do not see it as being essential to children and young people's healthy development and well being. Yet play is crucial for children and young people's health and wellbeing, their relationships, their development and their learning. Through play, children learn what happens when they follow their instincts by exploring and experimenting. Play helps to develop creativity and healthy risk taking and encourages children to learn from others, to develop friendships and a sense of community. Crucially, play can help to develop a child's sense of identity and worth. The low priority given to play and open spaces in planning, and the trivialisation of play by those who do not understand how critical it is for child development, all point to the need for a strategic approach to play.

Every child needs and has a right to play, but opportunities to play are often limited by external factors - lack of tolerance for children and young people, access to local spaces, the privatisation of public space, safety fears, time pressures, the effects of disability and special needs, poverty and other social conditions. Access to opportunities will be improved by recognition of the child's right to play and by action to support that right. I am extremely pleased to see Dundee City Council acknowledge and highlight its importance and I hope other councils will follow the publication of this far-sighted strategy.

foreword 3



Dr Drew Walker

Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside

We are focussing more and more on improving the mental and physical health of children and young people. We are also becoming increasingly aware of the major contribution which play makes to wellbeing and fitness in children.

There is an increasing body of research which shows that children gain significant mental health benefits and wide-ranging exercise from forms of play which they have the opportunity to choose freely. This includes climbing, running and chasing, jumping and fantasy play. These variously contribute to improved strength, co ordination, balance, risk-taking ability, confidence, self-esteem, agility, bone density and making sense of difficult or distressing aspects of life.

If they are given the chance, most children instinctively play, but this is not possible or encouraged for all children at present. Most children and young people will engage in beneficial physical activity if they are given the opportunity, the time and a stimulating and challenging play environment.

At the same time, no matter what backgrounds children come from, or what impairments they might have, almost every child and young person needs and wants to take physical and emotional risks as they grow up. Risk taking confers benefits, including extending skills, developing physical and emotional capacities, challenging ourselves in new ways and gaining direct experience of the consequences of our actions. It is very important to children, and a sign of their growth, when they learn about being brave and conquering fear.

Every child has their own ability to gauge risk at a personal level. Children are generally competent at judging their own capabilities and capacities, and they generally push themselves a little at a time because they don't wish to harm themselves. If we do not provide play opportunities that involve some element of risk and challenge, children will seek it elsewhere. We must balance the danger of harm against the benefit to the child in taking part in risky behaviour, when we are undertaking any risk assessment.

Sensible health and safety is about managing risks, not eliminating them altogether. We need to recognise the benefits of play to children's development, which necessarily involves some risk, and this should not be sacrificed in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety.



executive summary

Partnership Pledge

Member organisations of the Dundee Partnership comprise staff with a wide range of experience, expertise and understanding of the importance of play and the commitment to deliver good practice in play provision. Through implementation of the Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy, we hope to continuously promote and improve positive opportunities for inclusive outdoor play provision that address the needs of children and young people in the City. As partners, we will seek to provide a framework that ensures best use of existing resources to support good practice, and we will work together using the strategy to attract new funding for additional high quality play provision which benefits the City's children.

There are an estimated 31,725* children and young people under the age of 20 living in Dundee. According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009, approximately 3 out of 10 children in Dundee live in datazones that are ranked within the 15% most deprived in Scotland. High quality outdoor play is important to all children, but particularly to those whose opportunities for other forms of confidence-building activity may be more limited. There is growing concern that children are, on the one hand, increasingly isolated, sedentary and less inclined to exercise and these children are also more prone to exhibit antisocial or challenging behaviour and to under-perform at school while, on the other hand, there is a concern to supervise children and to limit their exposure to risk.

This strategy recognises the importance of play for children and its contribution to a wide range of policy objectives. It also recognises the importance of listening to young people and to taking on board their views when making decisions that affect them.

The strategy has been developed in line with the recommendations set out in Planning for Play** and current thinking on the importance of play to health, child development and positive participation of children and young people in their communities.

A review of play provision in Dundee was undertaken as part of the strategy and the key service-providers were consulted on current issues affecting play provision and play opportunities. The results of this work inform the key policy objectives and the proposed targets set out in the strategy. The strategy recognises the need for continuous monitoring against these outcomes as part of the implementation of the strategic targets.

Councillor Ken Guild

Chairman Dundee Partnership

*GRO (Scotland) Mid-2008 Population Estimates

**Planning for Play; National Children's Bureau and Big Lottery Fund (March 2006)

1 introduction



1.1 Purpose, Aim & Scope

Purpose

The Communities Facilities Audit Action Plan set the task of a review of the adequacy of public play facilities in Dundee and to produce a new long-term city-wide action plan within the context of the Public Open Space Strategy, through partnership and consultation, to improve children's outdoor play provision across Dundee.

The purpose of the Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy is to address the barriers to play for children and young people by developing more and better play spaces and opportunities, a more child-friendly public realm, and greater recognition of the importance of play across the range of policy areas that have an influence on children's lives.

Aim

The primary aim is to improve and enhance inclusive play provision and play opportunities across Dundee, according to identified need. This will be done in partnership with external agencies, the voluntary sector, children and young people and through public consultation.

It will take a broad view, beyond fixed equipment playgrounds, of where and how often children need access to the space and opportunity for play activity, including supervised play provision.

The strategy will also aim to promote physical activity, health, child development and enjoyment for children and young people, through active play and recreation.

Scope

In line with the age definition adopted in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child²¹, and the remit of the "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" agenda, this strategy applies to planning outdoor play environments and play services for children and young people under the age of 18. Unless a particular age group is specified, all references to either 'children', 'young people' or to 'children and young people' should be taken to include this full age range.

1.2 Definition Of Play

What is 'Play'?

Play has a richness, complexity and diversity that makes it difficult to define, but it is easily recognisable when we see it.

Play can involve individuals or groups of children; it can be fun or serious, adventurous or imaginative, spontaneous and unpredictable, but it can also be part of a planned activity where children choose to participate.

Do you remember ... pond dipping, digging holes, making sandcastles and snowmen, building dens, tree-houses, dams and rope swings, play fighting, conker-ing, dressing up and make believe, sledging, making itching powder out of rosehips, playing footy and British Bulldog, running wild, hiding in bushes, biking around, imagining shapes in the clouds?

Children will play anywhere and everywhere; it takes place in formal play areas, in nurseries, schools and parks; in the home, the car, the garden, the supermarket, the street, on derelict land, fields and woodland.

Play is what children are 'driven' to do by their nature for enjoyment or amusement and no other objective. Play comes from a child's innate need to express themselves, to explore, learn about and make sense of their world. Through play a child develops a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter.

Simply put ... "play is what children and young people do when they are free to follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons." ¹



2 the case for play



2.1 Value And Significance Of Play For Children And Young People

Why Does Children's Play Matter?

Play is a very important part of a child's life. Many experts in childhood development regard play as the 'work' of children. Regular enjoyment of time, space and opportunity to play is of fundamental importance for children and young people's physical health and fitness, mental health, wellbeing, their development, learning and happiness.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) gives all children the right 'to rest and leisure; to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities.'

Play is crucial to good health and development throughout childhood, contributing to social, physical, intellectual, cultural, emotional and psychological development. The physical activity involved in energetic play provides children and young people with a significant amount of their regular exercise. Research shows that school-aged children and young people get more exercise in free play than from most structured activities, excepting only P.E.²

Good play opportunities promote good social, mental and emotional health, giving children and young people the chance to try out and experience a range of emotions in a 'safe' way. It allows them to learn and develop emotionally by promoting resilience and fostering self-esteem.³

Physical Health and Fitness

The Chief Medical Officer advises that 'children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate-intensity physical activity each day'.⁴ There is growing research evidence that increased opportunity for free play is the most effective way to ensure this for children, and that a range of increasing health problems including childhood obesity are associated with the decline in play opportunities.² In the white paper *Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier* (2004)⁵ it noted that, 'many children appear to have less time being physically active ... because of the increase in car use and heightened concern about the potential risks of unsupervised play outdoors.'

"...the shift from unstructured to structured events for children is one of the causes of their decrease in walking ... letting children go out to play is one of the best things that parents can do for their children's health: outdoor play uses more calories than clubs and tuition ..."
Centre for Transport Studies, UCL, 2004.²

Mental Health

In parallel with concerns about the physical health of our children and the rise in childhood obesity and related disorders⁶, there is also evidence to show a significant increase in mental illness.⁷ The Mental Health Foundation estimates that at any time 20 percent of children and young people experience psychological problems. Their report, *Bright Futures*⁸, states that the opportunities for risk taking in unsupervised play helps children build self-confidence and resilience - key protective factors for mental health. Given the decrease in opportunities for playing outside unsupervised, the report also recognises the importance of supervised opportunities for play and the role of these services in supporting children's mental health.

Wellbeing

"Children are losing their connection with the natural environment, and their wellbeing and environmental quality are inextricably linked. The worse a local environment looks, the less able children are to play freely..." - Thomas and Thompson, *A Child's Place*, 2004.⁹

Research conducted by Demos and the Green Alliance⁹ has found that there is a big gap between children from rural and urban backgrounds in their level of access to natural environments, and that this is detrimental to children living in cities. Among the report's key recommendations was that children from disadvantaged backgrounds should be provided with more and better opportunities to access good quality open space.

Evidence shows that contact with the outdoors, and especially with the natural environment, is important for children, particularly in the middle years of childhood. The benefits of building a relationship with nature include a sense of identity, of being in the natural world, and experiencing the restorative effects of special places, which are often secret.¹⁰



Development, Achievement, Learning and Happiness

The essence of play is enjoyment. When playing, children define their own goals and interests, decide what is success or failure and pursue those goals in their own way. Children's enjoyment through play is linked to the control and choice they are able to exercise. Giving children the chance for free, uninhibited play allows them a psychologically safe space in which to try out new roles and experiences and enhances their enjoyment of life.

There are many developmental and experiential advantages associated with children's play - providing children also with the opportunities for achievement and enabling them to reach their full potential. These include the development of problem-solving and language and literacy skills as children and young people develop their social skills and express their emotions. Play is also seen as important in the development of children's imaginations and creative interests and abilities. Play allows children and young people to explore boundaries, be fully absorbed in what they are doing and feel satisfied with what they have achieved.

Through play children learn how and why things work. Early play has been shown to promote the capacity to learn in later childhood. Play promotes creativity, imagination and problem-solving.

Play builds social skills and friendships; it can promote positive interaction and respect for others and develop negotiation skills. Play builds self-confidence and understanding that can lead to better community participation and academic achievement.

Staying Safe and Learning to Manage Risk

Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge their own boundaries, learn new skills and use their initiative in a constructive way. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions, manage risk and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of play in children's lives and for their opportunities to learn about risk. HSE commends the Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide¹¹ and its sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision through the application of risk-benefit assessment.



2.2 Contribution Play Makes To Wider Agendas



Play is important not only in its own right but also in helping to achieve wider objectives.

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

Good play provision, which offers those seeking it genuine challenge and excitement, can help prevent bored children and young people expressing challenging behaviour in ways that are socially unacceptable, such as vandalism and underage drinking. A degree of risk in play provision is therefore not only desirable, but because the developmental need to experience challenges is so pronounced in children, learning to handle risk is one of its primary purposes.

If we want young people to flourish and if we want to divert them from antisocial behaviour, thinking about what teenagers want and what the community can provide is important. As well as play provision that offers challenge, provision should include youth activity programmes, often referred to as diversionary activities, and safe spaces to hang out. Research commissioned by CABI* Space shows that 'place making' - improving the design, maintenance and supervision of parks and other public spaces - is a more effective solution to "antisocial behaviour", than simply increasing security measures.¹²

Making a Positive Contribution

Children's engagement in the development of their own play is fundamental. Local authorities and community groups are increasingly engaging children and young people in local play audits and discussions about their play and free-time needs. This results in more appropriate provision, helps children and young people develop their skills and knowledge and ensures they are valued as active community members. Respecting and incorporating children and young people's views into plans and provision helps develop motivation and, potentially, participation in society.

*CABI - the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment is the UK Government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space in England.

Inclusive Play Opportunities

Good play opportunities that are open and accessible to all and take positive action to remove barriers promote integration, so that disabled children and non-disabled children can participate together in inclusive play. Access to free and enjoyable play spaces is especially important for disabled children and children living with other forms of social or economic disadvantage. However, a survey of 1,000 parents of disabled children across the UK, carried out in 2001, demonstrated how their children were excluded from ordinary leisure opportunities. Parks and playgrounds were the least user-friendly, with few facilities for disabled people.¹³ Other studies have shown that disabled children and young people can often feel threatened in open spaces, and that the design of play equipment often limits their access.¹⁴

Inclusive play provision also enables children from different cultures to integrate, share and learn together. Good inclusive play provision will encourage the uptake of services by minority ethnic groups. Research indicates that some minority ethnic groups are disproportionately excluded from play provision due to a range of cultural and ethnic pressures that discourage children attending mainstream play services.¹⁵ Our purpose is to promote enjoyment of the public realm without barriers of racism or stigma.

For children with disabilities and for many black and minority ethnic children, positive attitudes and the design of accessible, safe, secure and welcoming play environments help to remove social and physical barriers to their right to enjoy equality of access to play and leisure activities. Furthermore, the involvement of community-led organisations in the development of play opportunities is vital if they are to be culturally appropriate and socially inclusive.¹⁶

The UK Concluding Observations 2008 on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹⁷, made over 100 recommendations where the UK government must do more to put the UNCRC fully into practice. The report recommended that the government should make sure all playgrounds are of good quality and designed so that children with disabilities can use them.



Building Stronger Communities

Play is an important factor in the development of healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities. Play connects families and communities and enhances networks. Development of outside play and recreation spaces has been shown to have a measurable impact on community interaction, new friendships, community cohesion and community safety.¹⁸ Play provision often acts as a focal point for parents and carers to meet, giving them an opportunity to socialise with other adults.

Research in 2006 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation¹⁹ found that housing and regeneration initiatives which supported improvements to the built environment alongside economic measures with a focus on improving play and public space, was a key factor in making new and regenerated communities sustainable and attractive to families. CABE drew similar conclusions from its research into the views of residents of new housing - "A play area here is needed for all the children. We do need more communal green spaces to sit and relax in, especially as there are a lot of flats here and we don't have our own gardens like the houses." resident quoted in 'What it's like to live there', CABE, 2005.²⁰

Children playing outside - in public spaces and in dedicated play areas - signify a healthy community and a public realm that is meeting the needs of its people. Designing a child-friendly city with safer streets and neighbourhoods and safe travel routes, helps to tackle one of the main reasons parents give for their children not playing outdoors more - the fear of strangers, traffic and bullying by other children, which all combine to keep children in their own homes.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Good play provision brings economic benefits through jobs and training in the leisure, play work and education sectors. Playwork requires training and qualifications. It also enables parents to work or train in the knowledge that their children are happy, safe and enjoying themselves.

Developing the leisure and tourism potential of Dundee, such as play facilities at Greater Camperdown and Castle Green in Broughty Ferry, contributes to the quality of life for citizens and visitors as well as contributing to the attractive setting for investors.

3 context



3.1 Profile of Dundee City

Dundee is Scotland's fourth largest city and is situated on the north coast of the mouth of the Tay Estuary. Dundee City Council area covers 24 square miles (Ordinance Survey Land Line) and is geographically the smallest local authority area in Scotland, (Source: About Dundee 2008).

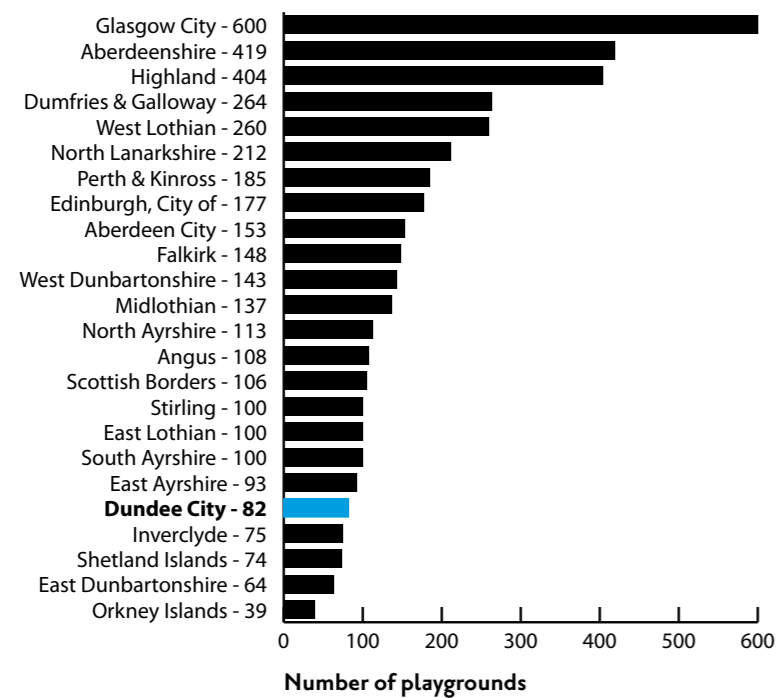
Population

Dundee's population is estimated to be 142,470 and 27,227 are under the age of 18, comprising almost one-fifth of the total City population, (Source: General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) 2008 Mid-year Population Estimate).

Outdoor Equipped Play Provision

There were 90 public, equipped play and youth areas in Dundee in 2009 equating to an average of about 302 children and young people per facility in Dundee. This compares with at least 4,156 playgrounds in Scotland, which is on average 240 children per playground, (Source: Local Authorities Play Provision in Scotland 2006, Play Scotland).

Number of playgrounds in local authorities across Scotland



(Source: Local Authority Play Provision in Scotland 2006 (Sept 2007) Play Scotland/Glasgow Caledonian University/The Economic & Social Research Institute Dublin)

Poverty and Deprivation

Dundee City is estimated to have 29.2% of its population living within datazones that are within the 15% most deprived in Scotland. In comparison to other Local Authorities, Dundee City is ranked third highest in respect to this statistic, (Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009, GROS - SAPE 2007).

It is estimated that 3 out of 10 children in Dundee live in datazones that are ranked within the 15% most deprived in Scotland (SIMD 2009), where 25.3% of children are living in workless households in Dundee, although this rises significantly in parts of the City, (Source: Child Health Statistics, NHS Tayside 2003). 54.0% of Dundee's population live in flats (Source: Census 2001), compared to the national average of 35.6% (Source: Census 2001), indicating that fewer children have access to gardens.

Government and UK Child Poverty figures state that 150,000 children in Scotland, nearly 1 in 6, do not have access to safe outdoor space for play. This disproportionately affects children from more impoverished backgrounds and the most vulnerable in Scotland. Disabled children from benefit-dependent families have particularly restricted play opportunities (Barnardos 2001), (Source: Findings of the Scottish Play Commission Report, Play Scotland).

In 2006/7 there was a total of 840,000 individuals living in relative poverty (before housing costs). This included 210,000 children (21% of all children), 440,000 working age adults (14% of all working age adults) and 180,000 pensioners (20% of all pensioners), (Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Department for Work and Pensions Family Resources Survey, Households below Average Income datasets).

Child poverty in 2006/7 measured 12% of children living in absolute poverty, 21% in relative poverty and 16% in combined low income and material deprivation, (Source: Health Scotland Community profiles 2004 Data, Census).



Health

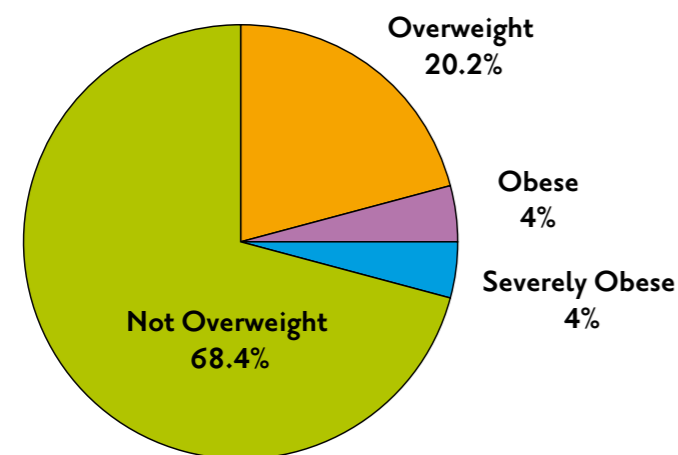
♦ Life Expectancy

Both life expectancy and expected years in good health are worse in Dundee than the Scottish average. Life expectancy at birth during 2005-07 was 79.4 years for females and 73.8 years for males, with Scotland as a whole having life expectancy of 79.7 years for females and 74.8 years for males, (Source: General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) 2008).

♦ Obesity

Obesity is a global epidemic and one that has taken hold in Scotland where 65% of men and 60% of women are overweight and over one-fifth are obese. Of Scottish children born in 2001, over 20% were overweight by the time they reached 3.5 years of age, (Source: Obesity Research Group, University of Dundee 2008).

It is estimated that about 20% of children in Scotland are overweight and the problem is seen particularly in families where one or both parents are overweight or obese, (Source: Factfile 2005, National Children's Home, Scotland). Childhood obesity rates for Primary 1 in Dundee during 2007/08 showed that one in three children, from a total of 1,270 child body mass index reviews, were overweight or obese, (Source: ISD Scotland, CHSP-S August 2008).



Dundee City Primary 1 Child Body Mass Index (BMI) Reviews 2007/08

♦ Physical Activity

25% of boys and 37% of girls aged 2-15 years in Scotland do less than the level of physical activity currently recommended for children. The most common type of physical activity children reported in the previous seven days to being surveyed was walking (92% of boys and 94% of girls), followed by active play (91% of boys and 88% of girls) and sports and exercise (73% of boys and 68% of girls), (Scottish Health Survey 2003). By the age of 16, two in three girls and one in three boys do not reach the recommended minimum levels of physical activity, (National Physical Activity Strategy 2003).

♦ Social Challenges

In 1971 the average 7 year-old was making trips to their friends' house or the shops on their own. By 1990 children were generally not allowed to do so until the age of 10. Over a single generation, children had lost up to 3 years of freedom of mobility. A survey by the Children's Society in 2007 found that nearly half of adults think that children should not be allowed to go out with their friends unsupervised until they are 14 years old (Source: Findings of the Scottish Play Commission Report, Play Scotland).

The majority of pupils perceive their neighbourhood as a safe place to be active, but one out of 20 pupils feel that it is not safe for them to walk or cycle alone during the day in the area where they live. About 1 in 5 pupils agree that aspects of the local environment such as poor pavements, heavy traffic and the presence of gangs make it difficult to be active locally (Source: Factfile 2005, National Children's Home, Scotland).



3.2 National Policy Context

Playspaces and play services can contribute towards local and national policy objectives across a range of areas. The inclusion of play in law and national policy documents underlines the importance of a play strategy which integrates social, environmental and economic objectives.

The following policy references highlight the importance of play in a national context:

European Legislation

The child's right to play is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN, 1990),²¹ which was ratified by the UK Government on 16 December 1991.

In Article 31 it requires that:

1. States' parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States' parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Statutory Planning Framework

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)²² is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. It values play and states: "the Planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where physical wellbeing is improved and activity made easier. Providing play space and other opportunities for children and young people to play freely, explore, discover and initiate their own activities can support their development."

SPP places responsibility with local authorities to support, protect and enhance open space and opportunities for sport and recreation, which includes outdoor play spaces.

SPP states the broad principles underpinning the planning system, which include a focus on the quality of outcomes, with due attention given to good design. SPP is a brief statement of policy and should be read alongside the following:

National Planning Framework (2009)²³

- the Scottish Government's strategy for Scotland's long term spatial development.

Designing Places (2008), Designing Streets(2010)²⁴

- the first policy statements in Scotland on designing places, and for street design.

PAN 77 Designing Safer Places²⁵

- Provides further guidance on the design and location of play areas

The Disability Discrimination Acts of 1995 and 2005²⁶

- Set out disability equality obligations

The Scotland Act 1998 (Section L2 of Part II of Schedule 5)²⁷

- Sets out equal opportunities obligations

The Schools Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967²⁸

- Includes requirements for minimum playing areas in schools



Public Health

'Let's Make Scotland More Active' (Scottish Executive 2003),²⁹ the national strategy for physical activity in Scotland, cites play as one of many types of physical activity that can contribute towards the goal of increasing and maintaining the proportion of physically active people in Scotland.

The strategy recommends that all children and young people, including children with disabilities, should accumulate at least one hour of moderate physical activity on most days of the week.

It is estimated that about a third of all school-aged pupils in Scotland do not achieve these levels. The Scottish Health Survey shows that among children, 27% of boys and 40% of girls are not active enough to meet the guidelines. In particular, special efforts are needed to tackle low physical activity among teenage girls.

The national strategy sets targets to achieve 80% of all children aged 16 and under meeting the minimum recommended levels of physical activity by 2022.

Active play can significantly contribute towards the national targets. The Scottish Health Survey³⁰ shows that ‘playing’ accounts for the greatest proportion of children and young people’s physical activity. Even in early teenage years, young people ‘play’ more than they take part in formal sports or exercise.

One objective of the strategy is to develop and maintain long-lasting, high quality environments to support inactive people to become active. It recognizes that all children and young people, including those with disabilities, should have the opportunity to be physically active and have access to a range of physical activities including play. It promotes well designed, safe and accessible parks and play areas, use of school facilities by communities, play activities and clubs, changes to the built environment, such as traffic-calming and safe routes for active travel, as ways in which better local services could contribute towards encouraging young people to be more physically active.

The **Early Years Framework**³¹, published 2009 by the Scottish Government, noted play as one of the ten areas of transformational change for the next ten years. It sets the ambition for local and Scottish Government to improve outcomes and children’s quality of life through play with the goal of high quality play opportunities in every community across Scotland. In the **Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities**³² (2008) and **Achieving our Potential - A Framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland**³³ (2008), both documents refer to long-term objectives of providing better access to spaces to play and increased opportunities for children, so that they are supported to realise their potential and avoid poverty and poor health in later life.

In addition to Government Policies, there are organisations with relevant strategies and policy documents concerning play provision, notably:

Forestry Commission publications

1. Growing Adventure (2006)
2. Design guidance for play spaces (2006)
3. Rope swings, dens, tree houses and fires (2006)

Play England publications

1. Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces (2008)
2. Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide (2008)
3. Nature Play: Maintenance Guide (2009)

Sustrans publications

1. Routes to Play (2009)
2. Why Play (2008)
3. Active Play and Travel information sheet FH13
4. DIY Streets Pocket Guide



3.3 Local Policy Context

Outdoor play provision can make an important contribution towards the delivery of the Dundee Community Plan 2005-2010 and Dundee City Council Corporate Plan 2007-2011, particularly with regard to the following strategic themes:

Community Planning Theme	Relevance to Play Provision
Building Stronger Communities	Promoting the maintenance of play areas, developing community facilities for play, capacity building/community planning of better neighbourhoods.
Community Safety	Designing safe play spaces, engaging young people in community planning, promoting inclusion, improving road safety for young people and safe travel routes, providing youth activity programmes.
Environment	Promoting sustainable design and construction, enhancing environmental quality and biodiversity.
Health and Care	Increasing the levels of physical activity.
Learning and Culture	Play is learning and builds self-confidence, social skills and understanding that can lead to better community participation and academic achievement. Play spaces can be “outdoor classrooms”.
Work and Enterprise	Developing the leisure and tourism potential of Dundee, such as facilities at Greater Camperdown, Dudhope Park and Castle Green in Broughty Ferry. Contributing to the quality of life for citizens and visitors and contributing to the attractive setting for investors.

Dundee’s Public Open Space Strategy 2009-2014 identifies a need for a city-wide initiative for children’s outdoor play, to coordinate provision and to consult with Dundee’s children and young people on proposals that affect them. It highlights provision of outdoor play as one of the most important functions of parks and open spaces and sets the following actions required of the Outdoor Play Strategy:

- Undertake an audit of existing outdoor play provision
- Seek to provide outdoor play opportunities that balance an acceptable level of risk with real challenge and excitement
- Seek to provide inclusive outdoor play opportunities
- Identify opportunities for adventure play, imaginative play and natural play in informal outdoor settings and identify best practice examples
- Identify further actions needed to improve outdoor play provision

Play provision also has an important contribution to make in many other local or departmental strategies, plans and initiatives in Dundee that would result in positive outcomes for children and young people, including:

- Dundee Council Plan, 2007-2011
- Dundee: A City Vision, 2006
- Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2001-06 (2002)
- Dundee Local Plan Review, 2003
- Dundee Partnership for the Environment Strategy, 2007
- Dundee Departmental Service Plans 2007-2011
- Joint Health Improvement Plan 2005-2008
- Dundee Urban Design Guide (2002)
- Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2002)
- Dundee Community Learning & Development Youth Work Strategy 2007-11
- The Dundee Integrated Children's Service Plan 2005-2008 (being updated)
- Dundee Physical Activity Strategy (for children from birth to five) 2006-2010
- Early Years and Childcare Plan 2006-2009



The diversity and range of local community plans, policies and strategies relevant to play provision underlines the need for a corporate approach to play that recognises links, and highlights the role for strong working relationships between private, voluntary and public sector organisations.

Furthermore, Dundee supports the following initiatives and their contribution to play provision.

Play Scotland

Play Scotland formed in 1998. It is the lead body for play in Scotland and is a membership organisation and registered charity funded by the Scottish Executive.

Play Scotland works to promote the importance of play for all children and young people, and campaigns to create increased play opportunities in the community.

It does this through:

- political lobbying for a play policy and a strategic approach to play in Scotland
- research into play provision in Scotland to provide an evidence base to inform Play Scotland's work and to inform stakeholders
- workforce development of the playwork sector through training and development
- developing strategic resources to support the play sector in Scotland

Play Scotland has established the Scottish Play Policy Forum. It's mission is to discuss and, when relevant, coordinate work at a policy level in Scotland, in order to support the development of quality play opportunities for all children and young people aged 0-18 years.

Fields In Trust - Scotland

Fields in Trust (FIT), formerly the National Playing Fields Association, is the only independent UK-wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports and play spaces and facilities.

FIT is a registered charity whose mission statement is 'to improve the quality of life and health of everyone throughout the UK, through protecting and developing high quality, well-used local facilities for outdoor sport and play and to secure community spaces for future generations.'

FIT already works in partnership with Dundee City Council, with a legal agreement that any proposals to develop the George V Playing Area to the east of Caird Park are subject to consultation with FIT.

In 2007 the Director of Leisure and Communities, together with the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), was granted committee approval to enter into a partnership agreement with FIT protecting parkland public open space in perpetuity in respect of Lochee Park.



Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces. The award scheme began as a means of recognising and rewarding high environmental standards, maintenance and management in parks and green spaces; and encourages an ever-increasing improvement in the quality of our parks and green spaces. Flying the flag is a symbol of a well-managed, quality green space.

Green Flag was established in England and Wales in 1996 and the scheme is managed by a consortium of Keep Britain Tidy, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Greenspace. In 2007, the Green Flag Award scheme was piloted in Scotland in the cities of Dundee and Edinburgh. In its first year, Dundee gained a Green Flag for Barnhill Rock Garden.

The benefits from the Green Flag Award scheme include improvements to community facilities and engagement of local people. It acts as a lever for obtaining external funding through improvement grants, attracts visitors and tourism and fosters civic pride.

Play provision in Dundee parks or green space for which an application is made, will be judged against the Green Flag Key Criteria. An outline of the key criteria interpreted in relation to play provision is set out in Appendix 2. Parks and green spaces gaining a Green Flag Award can benefit play provision by improving standards in play provision and the quality of maintenance and management practices.

↳ review of community engagement



4.1 Approach

To avoid 'consultation fatigue' and alienating the very people we wanted to involve, existing and relevant consultation results were identified and examined from local community planning exercises completed by the Council, and included data from key partners where this information was available. It includes feedback gained through youth work.

4.2 Key Findings

Source - Local Community Plans 2008-2011 Consultations

Local community plan play-related outcomes are listed here in order of frequency in which the needs and aspirations were raised across the City.

- More involvement by parents, children and young people in making and influencing key decisions affecting the planning and delivery of play facilities and services to meet local needs
- Better quality play and youth facilities and services
- Better access to a wide range of play and youth facilities that meet their needs at suitable times, and places and where they can feel safe and secure
- Better access to weekend and after school services and facilities for under 12's
- Better access to a wider range of constructive / diversionary activities for young people to avoid them getting involved in criminal activities
- Safer local roads and streets
- Better lighting of play and youth facilities to enable greater community use
- Adults perceived fear of young people in the community will be better addressed

Other points raised, which have an indirect relevance to outdoor play provision:

- Better quality public open spaces and recreation facilities
- Improved access to community facilities and resources for all ages
- Improved use and appearance of existing open spaces
- Local regeneration frameworks and planning briefs will be influenced and implemented in line with community aspirations
- Incidence of youth crime and antisocial behaviour will be tackled effectively - drug and alcohol misuse, vandalism, graffiti and wilful fire raising
- Better access to toilet provision in parks and open spaces

Source - Play Network Consultations

Play-related needs and aspirations resulting from direct consultation with charitable and voluntary organisations across the City are listed here.

- Better provision of supervised, fun outdoor activities for all ages
- Provision of play space in targeted areas where there is under-provision
- Better access to play for special needs families, including adventure play
- Provision of imaginative, natural play spaces
- Provision of clean, safe, exciting local play space
- Better lighting of play and youth facilities to extend use through the year



5 examples of play services in Dundee



5.0 Examples Of Play Services In Dundee

For reasons of practicality and resources, the play audit looked at examples of outdoor play services in Dundee, but play services were not audited and analysed in depth.

5.1 Mobile & Outreach Play Services

Dads and Kids Project

A partnership project between Education's Early Years and Childcare Team, Leisure and Communities' Sports Development Team and Countryside Rangers Service. Most parent and toddler groups are attended by women, therefore this project stemmed from an identified need to offer dads a targeted service, encouraging quality, fun time with their children, to build and cement their relationships and to allow dads to see how other dads manage their children.

Sessions are held on Saturday mornings so that working dads can attend. The programme aims to include one outdoor session every month, such as den building and kiddie Highland Games; these are free and are held in parks and open spaces. Staff are on hand to answer questions on parenting. The project is part-funded by Sure Start Funding. Feedback results have shown that dads very much value the project.



Youth Work

The Youth Team, often in partnership with others, provides an outreach service working with young people at locations where they 'hang out', such as the BMX track in Baldovie, at skateparks and Multi-Use Games Area facilities (MUGAS). The team also has mobile street football kits, often, but not exclusively, used in deprived parts of the City and where there is a lack of local fixed youth provision.

The remit of the Team's youth work largely covers the age range of 12-25 years in line with the European definition of youth work, but the need is mainly from young people of 12-16 years, and as young as 9 years of age. An important factor of the team's work is making contact with 'hard to reach' children and young people, for example those not attending school or formal, organised clubs.

Through on-street contact and informal activities youth workers can open up opportunities to promote personal development, healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning. In addition, there is often a diversionary focus to this work; by building mutual trust and respect, youth workers can influence the decisions young people make, which in turn can lead to fewer difficulties for the young people and the wider community. Examples of targeted diversionary projects include: evening access for local youth to football facilities through a negotiated agreement with the Dundee International Sports Centre (DISC); and the Target Project in West Dundee set up to tackle bike theft through the youth justice service, whereby individuals agree to take part in a scheme to build a bike and own it on successful completion of the training. Both targeted projects have resulted in fewer calls to the police concerning youth crime and nuisance.



Camperdown Wildlife Centre

The Wildlife Centre runs free, annual events and activities marking Hallowe'en and Christmas. In addition, the Wildlife Centre held two playful interactive events in 2008 and 2009 that reached out to disadvantaged groups in the community.

1. Dreamnight at the Zoo

In June 2008 and 2009, Dundee joined other zoos across Europe to promote a targeted event for chronically ill and disabled children, their parents/carers and immediate family members. Entry is by invitation only on the recommendation of a medical practitioner. The children and young people are welcomed and treated as VIP's and are given the opportunity, where practicable, to come into closer contact with the animals than the average visitor. It is proposed that this will continue as an annual event.

2. Community Conservation Day

A free open day giving children from the wider community, particularly the disadvantaged, an opportunity to visit the Wildlife Centre and take part in children's activities, by removing some of the barriers such as entry fees and travel costs. Each year travel-providers are asked to transport visitors to the Centre from bus stops outside the Country Park.

Outreach Work with Morgan Academy's ASDAN Group

Led by the Environmental Arts Team with input from the Landscape Design Team. Ongoing work with S3 pupils (13/14yrs) from Morgan Academy for whom the typical academic curriculum and environment is less successful, and where some school time is spent being involved in creative activities that input into public park improvements under the ASDAN programme. ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) is a qualifications and curriculum authority offering a number of programmes and qualifications to develop and recognise personal and social skills, which can contribute considerably to a person's employability. Examples of completed projects include the installation of a mosaic and toddler playhouse canopy at Baxter Park, done in conjunction with the Friends of Baxter Park.

Dundee Girl Guides and Fair Play Training

Over the last ten years the Dundee Guiding Association has offered a short holiday to vulnerable children and their mothers from disadvantaged parts of Dundee, who were in need of a break. The project was delivered in conjunction with Fair Play, who provided the play resources and volunteers; from 2008 this partnership project ceased to run due to a lack of resources needed to organise it.

5.2 Playful Outdoor Activities At Events & Festivals

Countryside Ranger Service and Environmental Arts Team

For many events and festivals held in Dundee parks, playful creative activities for children and young people are organised and supervised by the Countryside Ranger Service and Environmental Arts Team. An annual programme of playful activities are structured and developed around a chosen theme. The activities cater for all ages and are mainly run on an 'open access' basis.

Snapshot of Annual Events and Activities in Parks and Open Spaces

Below is a list of annual events that take place in Dundee parks and open spaces. Except where highlighted, these events and activities are organised by the Countryside Ranger Service or Environmental Arts Team.

The local festivals are organised largely by local resident groups and have been funded through local fundraising, and from 2009 by the Fairer Scotland Fund. The Sports Development Team and Youth Team provide activities for children and young people at many of the festivals and events, and at several locations in the City as part of an annual programme. Activities include mobile football kits, assault course and a climbing wall.

MARCH

Easter Fun Day - fun for all the family at Camperdown Country Park

APRIL

Wee Wellies - art activities at The New Duntrune Demonstration Garden, Dawson Park (QA)

MAY

Wee Walk Family Event at Camperdown Park (Great Scottish Walks)

Red Alert - activities to learn more about Dundee's Red Squirrels at Templeton Woods Visitor Centre

Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve - activities for all ages

Naturally Artistic - creative art activities at Templeton Woods

Scottish Biodiversity Week - nature activities at Camperdown Park, Balgay Park, Trottick Mill Ponds, Broughty Castle and Clatto Country Park

Signs of Spring - trails, quizzes and family activities at Balgay Park

JUNE

Family Fun Day in the Middleton Community Woodland

Camperdown Park Junior Open at Camperdown Park Pitch & Putt Course (E)

Seashore Festival - family fun and live music at Castle Green

Shore Wildlife Watch at Broughty Ferry Harbour

Kids' Walk and Teddy Bear Picnic at Barnhill Rock Garden (QA)

Trottick Mill Ponds Local Nature Reserve - trails, quizzes and family activities

Dads and Kids Project - Den Building at Templeton Woods (EYCT)

Dads and Kids Project - Highland Games at Castle Green (EYCT)

SCRI Open Day - interactive fun for all ages (Scottish Crop Research Institute)

Douglas Festival at Douglas Primary School (Festival Committee)

Ardler Fun Day at the playing fields of Ardler and St Fergus RC Primary Schools (Ardler Village Trust)

JULY

Ardler Trust Woodland Path Project - creative activities at Ardler

Celebration in the Park - creative activities at Baxter Park (E)

Garden Party in the Park - creative activities at Dawson Park (QA)

Lochee Legacy - family activities at Lochee Park Pavilion

Whitfield Gala Day at Longhaugh Primary School (organised by 'WING')

Mill O' Mains Fun Day at Bowling Green/Pavilion (local residents' committee)

Shore Wildlife Watch at Broughty Ferry Harbour

Wee Wellies - art activities at The New Duntrune Demonstration Garden, Dawson Park (QA)

Gala in the Garden - fun activities, The New Duntrune Demonstration Garden, Dawson Park

AUGUST

Ferry Fliers - falconry display and activities at Broughty Castle Grounds

Midlin Festival - (local residents' committee)

Free Family Fun Day at Menzieshill Community Centre and garden (centre staff and local residents)

Gala Day at Charleston village green (local residents' group)

Family Fun Day at Rainbow House and grounds (Under 12s Project)

SEPTEMBER

Annual Cyclathon family event (Claverhouse Rotary Club)

Dundee Flower & Food Festival - creative activities and competitions at Camperdown Country Park (E)

Middleton Woods Community Event - trails, puzzles and activities

OCTOBER

Red Alert - activities to learn more about Dundee's Red Squirrels at Templeton Woods Visitor Centre

Community Conservation Day at Camperdown Wildlife Centre (P)

Mini Beast Magic Children's Event at Dawson Park

Hallowe'en Children's Activities at Camperdown Wildlife Centre (P)

NOVEMBER

Fireworks Displays at Baxter Park and Lochee Park (E)

DECEMBER

Meet Santa and His Elf at Camperdown Wildlife Centre (P)

Organiser:

E = Events, QA = Quality Assurance & Staff Development Team,

P = Parks Operations, EYCT = Early Years & Childcare Team



5.3 Structured Play Informing Design Work



Crescent Street Play Area

Environmental Arts in conjunction with the Landscape Design Team use structured, playful activities to engage children and young people in creative consultation events. These fun, creative activities can be used to produce an element or 'building block' of the final constructed works, for example Crescent Street Play Area incorporated within its design clay bricks, impressed with designs created by members of Trinity Church Mother and Toddler Group.

Wee Wellies at The New Duntrune Demonstration Garden

Young people of 4-8 years are encouraged by environmental artists to explore the outdoor environment through structured playful art activities in a garden development process. The work is inter-generational with children, parents and grandparents - often having a local connection - involved in the project.

Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden

Inter-generational work where environmental artists engage children, young people and families at Barnhill Rock Garden, through creative play activities. The work informs an ongoing development process, which has led to the idea of the Friends developing a nature trail and story-telling facility with portable seating stumps.



5.4 Play Resource & Toy Libraries

Kirkton, Ardler and Blackness Community Toy Lending Libraries

A partnership project between Education's Early Years and Childcare Team (EYCT) and Leisure and Communities' Library Service. The toy lending library is accessible to all who have adult book library membership, plus a one-off £1 joining fee. It includes outdoor play equipment such as popular toddler bouncy castles, scooters, trikes, bats and balls and games that get the whole family playing together and physically active. The main focus is provision for the age group 0-5 years, but also includes equipment suitable for older primary school children up to age 11. The equipment has been bought through a patchwork of funding sources: Youth Strategy grant 2006, Scottish Executive funding (Community Regeneration Fund and Sure Start), and EYCT budget 2007/08.

Play Resource Library for Voluntary Sector

With £15,000 made available through the Scottish Executive Play Capital Fund 2007/08, Dundee City Council's Early Years and Childcare Team purchased a physical play resource library for use by groups from the voluntary sector that may not have access to free play resources, to encourage more active, outdoor play for health and wellbeing. The library incorporated large outdoor equipment and smaller pieces, including sensory equipment for children with additional support needs. In Spring 2009 the equipment was distributed to about 15 organisations working with a range of age groups from pre-school children through to young people.



5.5 Play Training

With funds made available through the Scottish Executive Workforce Development Funding Programme 2007/08, Dundee City Council's Early Years and Childcare Team as part of their Training Strategy, engaged Fair Play Training through a service level agreement to deliver playwork training. This accredited training was delivered to after-school care club staff, pre-school nursery staff, family support workers and others as appropriate. It included SVQ Playwork levels 2 and 3, SQA National Units in "an introduction to play" and "working with children with additional support needs". There were also non-accredited training workshops in fun activities for pre-schoolers. The workshops encouraged enthusiasm and introduced new ideas for play activities and resources, e.g. a popular environmental workshop called Wind, Wood and Wellies which gave play workers a greater awareness of how the outdoors could be used for play, and offered free Green Finger Packs produced by Scottish Natural Heritage which promoted the outdoors and natural heritage.

In addition, accredited training and fun sessions of creative play were delivered through Community Training Frameworks in economically-disadvantaged areas of Dundee at community centres providing parents with the skills, confidence and qualifications to get them into employment.

5.6 Play Associations & Networks

Dundee Play Forum

The Dundee Play Forum, a charitable organisation, was set up as a voluntary sector consultative forum for both indoor and outdoor play in the City. However, with the Dundee Play and Youth Area Strategy being taken forward and with play an agenda item on the "Every Child Matters" forum and "Cracking Youth Work" forum, members agreed to dissolve the group in 2009. Many of the Forum's aims are reflected in this document and in the work of the Play Partnership.

Parents for Play

Parent groups who are actively interested in improving play spaces in their local community. Groups exist in Charleston and St Marys and are supported by the Community Family Support Project. The groups are currently investigating the potential for new local play space and the improvement of existing ones. They have organised visits looking at examples of play provision and are considering issues, potential sites and funding opportunities.

Local Groups and Voluntary Bodies

Local groups and voluntary bodies who have shown an interest in being involved in the development of play provision in Dundee, include the following:

Parks and Gardens

- Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden
- Wee Wellies at Duntrune Demonstration Garden
- Friends of Baxter Park
- Dudhope Park Tenants' & Residents' Group

City-wide

- Barnardo's Family Support Team
- Dundee Access Group
- Grey Lodge Settlement
- The Inclusion Group
- Dundee International Women's Centre
- Dundee Women's Aid

City Centre Area

- City Centre and Harbours Community Council
- Trinity Church Mother & Toddler Group
- St Andrew's Parish Church Family Support Project

Other Areas in Dundee

- Ormiston and Salton Tenants' Association in Whitfield
- Stobswell Forum
- St Mary's Parents for Play Group
- Ardler Village Trust
- Whorterbank Tenants' Association
- Charleston Parents for Play Group
- Under 12's Project in Mid Craigie & Linlathen



5.7 Play Services Findings

For reasons of practicality and resources there was not the scope to audit play services including playwork training across Dundee in depth, and it is a target of the Strategy that this should be addressed separately. However, dialogue with local people through the community planning process and consultation with children identified some opportunities, notably to provide:

- Better access to and a wider range of play and youth activities/services that meet the needs of children and young people, at suitable times and places and where they can feel safe and secure
- Better access to weekend and after school services for under 12's
- More play opportunities with mobile equipment that can be taken around the City to local areas for children and young people to use
- Better access to school outdoor spaces for casual as well as organised play and recreation after hours and during school holidays



Play Ranger Project

There is a growing recognition amongst professionals working with children that there has been a decline in opportunities for children to participate in play outdoors.

In 2008 consultation with children and parents throughout Dundee was undertaken by the charity Fair Play Training to establish how play provision could be improved in greenspaces, and from this the idea for a Play Ranger mobile service was developed. The objective is to provide a stimulating play environment for children, with access to opportunities for fun activities or unstructured and undirected free-play. It seeks to address barriers (perceived or real) to children's access to outdoor play, such as parents' fears for their children's safety from traffic and 'stranger danger', children's fears for their own safety from bullying and unsafe outdoor play spaces.

Feedback from a large proportion of the parents consulted felt that the introduction of Play Rangers in greenspaces will benefit the children by offering fun, stimulating play opportunities and by improving their confidence, self-esteem and general health, development and wellbeing. It will also help alleviate parental anxieties about outdoor play, afford families and carers social opportunities and foster interaction between generations.

The aim is to run the project in Whitfield, Douglas, Mill O' Mains, Hilltown, Stobswell, Strathmartine, Kirkton, Ardler, Lochee, Charleston and Menzieshill, some of Dundee's most deprived areas, if external funding can be secured.

Analysis found that where greenspace and/or finance for equipped outdoor play is difficult to find, alternative play opportunities organised by Play Rangers, as part of the programmed use of a public open space or local park, could potentially be provided through external funding.



6 equipped play & youth
area provision examined



6.1 Purpose And Scope Of The Audit

The purpose of the audit was to gather information about local play facilities: how many there are; where they are; how accessible they are to users and an assessment of their quality.

The scope of the audit was limited to public outdoor play and youth area facilities, i.e. equipped play spaces, youth shelters, BMX and wheeled-sport facilities, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and fenced kick-about areas. Only play provision that met the “three frees” was considered. These are: free to use (i.e. cost nothing); where children are free to choose what activities they do and free to come and go.

Ideally the audit would have covered public open space, including not just play spaces in parks and other greenspace, but also civic and public hard spaces, which may have an important informal play function. However, there is an opportunity to follow this principle in the Open Space Strategy or studies of open space and other recreation facilities.

To a child, the world is a playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, kerb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging skateboard obstacle. Children and young people will play and hang out in almost all publicly accessible space, including the street, town centres and squares, parks and greenspaces. Play is not and should not be restricted to designated ‘reservations’ of play provision. The aspiration should instead be to make as much as possible of the environment that children inhabit suited for play.

6.2 Audit Methodology

A two-stage approach to the audit process has been undertaken. This is based on a study undertaken by the Children’s Play Council piloting area-wide performance indicators for play:³⁴

Stage 1 - Desk-Based Research

A database of public play spaces was built up by gathering information from stakeholders including council departments, housing associations and voluntary organisations and groups. The location of equipped play spaces is precisely identified by a grid reference. Each play area was initially categorised. The categorisation used in the play audit is the typology set out in “Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play”, published by Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association).³⁵

Stage 2 - Site Visits

To ensure confidence in the accuracy, quality and extent of the desk-based research, all park play spaces belonging to the Leisure and Communities Department of the Council were visited as part of a sample pilot survey to fill gaps in site-specific information, to review the information collected from different sources, undertake qualitative and play value assessments and an audit of access for disabled children. In total, 20 Council park play areas were audited. The play area assessments are based on guidance produced by Fields in Trust.³⁵

Access Assessment

An access audit was undertaken in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, Part III²⁶. The Act is retrospective and places a duty upon owner/operators to consider access for disabled people to each and every play space. It also encourages inclusive play such as access to play components within play spaces. The audit looked at whether Council park play area entrances are well defined, welcoming, wide enough for wheelchairs and have a hard surfaced path. It assessed the provision of inclusive equipment, sensory planting and inclusive seating, as well as the appropriateness of safer surfaces and paths within play areas. The audit also considered access to the site in relation to the provision of disabled parking and safer road crossings.

Quality Assessment

The qualitative assessment was divided into two sections:

1. Play Value Assessment

A play value audit was undertaken that looked at the number of play experiences available at each Council park play area, for example rotating, swinging, sliding etc. Bonus points were awarded, if appropriate, as an assessment of the enhancement of the play process for natural play features within the play area and for themed equipment and surfacing.

2. Quality of the Site, Facilities Available and Condition

A quality assessment was undertaken. This looked at the Council park play areas, the facilities available and the condition of both.

Stage 3 - Audit Recording

The results of the play space audit were recorded on the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) database; this is a computer-based mapping and data assessment tool.

Mapping the data collected in the audit on GIS makes it much easier to monitor changes in play provision, update the database as necessary and aids long-term planning.

The GIS database could be used as a tool to assist in the maintenance of play space, with maintenance tasks and requirements included in it as part of day-to-day management.

6.3 Audit Findings

Maps in Appendix 3 show the geographical distribution and classification of known public equipped play provision across Dundee, with notional catchment areas.

In total, there are 90 known public equipped play and youth areas across Dundee included in the GIS audit database.

Public Parks and Open Spaces

There are 83 play and youth facilities in parks and open spaces in Council ownership, accounting for 70 equipped play areas and 13 youth facilities.

Housing Association Play Spaces

Angus Housing Association, Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association, Abertay Housing Association and Northern Housing Company Ltd (a registered charity and formerly a housing association) own land that is designated as a public play area and maintain this land where it has not been adopted by the Council. There are 5 public play spaces on land belonging to housing associations.

Greenbelt Company Play Spaces

There are 2 public play spaces owned and maintained by the Greenbelt Company.

Other Play Spaces

There are other providers of equipped outdoor play and youth areas which are not included in the GIS audit database, for example:

- National Health Service Tayside
- Local children and youth charities and voluntary organisations
- Dundee City Council schools

Resources for Play Areas in Council Parks and Open Spaces

The last programme of fixed play space refurbishments and rationalisation, beginning April 2000 up to April 2008, was paid for from the following capital funding sources:

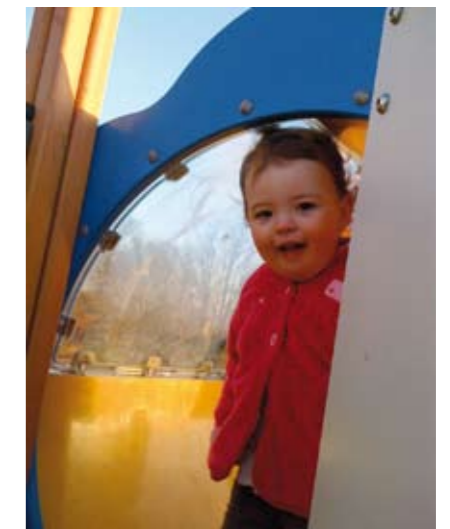
Capital Plan for Play Area Improvements	£1,573,000
The Quality of Life Fund	£452,000
Heritage Lottery Fund (Baxter Park Play Area)	£150,000
Total	£2,175,000

The above figures exclude additional investment from regeneration funding sources.

Over the same eight-year period, revenue investment on fixed play provision in Council parks and open spaces is estimated to be £955,987, giving a total estimated investment of £3,130,987.

Based on a population figure of 142,470* for Dundee, investment in Council play areas for the period 2000-2008 averaged over the eight years, is estimated to be £2.75 per resident per year, or £13.33 per child (aged 0-18years) per year.

*GRO (Scotland) Mid-2008 Population Estimates



Awards for Play



- ♦ **Nancy Ovens Awards for Play**

2008 Best Design of a Play Experience for Castle Green play space

2010 Best Design Award for Myrekirk Park playscape

- ♦ **Finalist certificates:**

2008 Best Design of a Play Experience for Stobsmuir Park play space

2008 Best Community Award for Play for Finlathen Park Wheeled Sports Facility

2008 Best Promotion of Outdoor Play Facilities for Baxter Park play area

2006 Dudhope Park Skatepark

- ♦ **Local Government News Street Design Awards**

2006 Winner in the Children's Play category for Castle Green play space



Quantitative Assessment of Play Areas

Prioritising Need

There is scope to improve the distribution of 'doorstep' and local equipped areas for play in housing areas across the City, tailored to identified need and strategic objectives, to enable better access to play opportunities within easy walking distance of children and young people.

Analysis found that the local expectation for improvements in play provision did not mirror geographical 'gaps'. An important role of the Play Partnership will be to take a strategic overview and to help prioritise improvements in play provision for those most in need.

Overcoming Barriers

Where it is difficult to identify suitable sites for equipped play in built-up areas, creative thinking and effort may be needed through partnership working to overcome barriers to establishing equipped play areas. In some areas a temporary solution might be local outdoor play initiatives such as Play Ranger sessions or mobile street football sessions, to bridge the gap.

'Planning Gain' for Play Provision

In regeneration plans or through planning approval for developments there are opportunities to establish high quality play areas and improve the quality of existing sites, for example through Section 75 Agreements in Hilltown, Charleston, Lochee, Menzieshill, City Centre Waterfront, Mill O' Mains and Whitfield, as well as developments on green field sites such as north of Arbroath Road in the Ferry ward.

6.4 Analysis of Provision

Audit results underwent a detailed analysis relative to local expectation for improvements in play provision and key results are set out in Appendix 4. A summary of the opportunities that exist for improvements are described here.

The pilot site surveys, assessing quality, access and play value, covered a proportion of the total equipped play areas across the City, however the recommendations can be a useful reference point for comparison against other existing or proposed play areas. In total, 20 Council park play areas were visited, including Belmont Castle Estate recreation ground in Meigle, for which Dundee City Council has responsibility.



Balancing Quality and Quantity

A concentration of play areas was identified along Alexander Street in Hilltown and in west Whitfield. These areas could sustain a reduction in the number of play areas, whilst improving the quality of play provision in a smaller number of better-distributed and tailored play and youth areas. However, a concentration of provision can be beneficial when there are different categories of play area designed for different age groups. Moreover, providing Destination and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play is no substitute for providing Local Equipped Areas for Play and Doorstep play areas within housing areas. See strategy Section 8.1 for an explanation of the standard and hierarchy of play area provision.

Improving Council Park Play Areas

The map in Appendix 5 indicates improved geographical distribution and notional catchment areas of public equipped play and youth areas. These have been designated after incorporating strategic target opportunities for provision in Council park play areas, aimed at raising the accessibility, quality and play value of these prime recreation sites.

Analysis found that Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play category play areas were the most appropriate for many public parks, which are aimed to be within a 15-minute walk or 600 metres from the homes of children and young people and designed for a much wider age range. Opportunities were identified to offer more children and young people well-designed outdoor play and youth facilities by refurbishing some Council park play areas to Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play standard.

Aspiring to provide better access to a wide range of play and youth facilities that meet their needs and at suitable places where they can feel safe and secure, would help to address the desire for this from local communities. In the right location, an integrated play and youth facility bringing children, young people and family groups together as users, would also help to address adults' perceived fear of young people in the community.

Analysis identified that provision should be consolidated at Clatto Park. The woodland play area was poorly sited and should be removed; the large adventure play area should be refurbished for children and young people up to 18 years of age.

Accessibility Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

The audit analysis found opportunities existed to improve access to Council park play areas. The key findings were that nearly half of the sites needed an approach path to the main entrance of the play area and over one quarter of the sites had gated entrances that needed to be widened to accommodate wheelchairs. Guidance strongly recommends that play areas make provision for inclusive play. Inclusive play designed into all play spaces is in the spirit of the DDA²⁴ legislation, rather than dedicated play areas for people with disabilities. The audit findings were that half of the sites needed to make provision for inclusive play equipment within the play area.

In addition, analysis found that better provision was needed at park play areas for:

- Inclusive seating
- Designated disabled parking bays nearby in the street or in park car parks
- Safer crossings on the nearest main road where appropriate

Aspiring to provide better access to play for special needs families, including adventure play and safer crossings on local roads, would help to address the desire for these from local communities and play organisations.

Qualitative Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

The qualitative assessment was divided into two sections:

I. Play Value Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

Analysis found that opportunities existed for more park play areas to achieve a silver or gold standard for play value, by offering children and young people more challenge and excitement. A play area does not need to offer a large number of play equipment items to achieve silver standard. Examples are Stobswell Park and Orchar Park play areas. The results highlighted that unfenced play areas allowed greater scope to incorporate natural play features, such as planting, boulders, logs, grassed space for running around and family picnics that enhance the overall play experience of the space. Aspiring to provide imaginative, natural play spaces, challenge and excitement would help to address the desire for this from local communities and play organisations.

2. Quality of the Site, Facilities Available and Condition

Analysis found that opportunities existed for more Council park play areas to achieve a gold standard for quality of provision and these are described under topic headings below:

Location

Results highlighted that Dundee parks are a good location for well-designed neighbourhood play areas. The siting of play areas in parks and open spaces offers a greater opportunity to accommodate a buffer between play areas, roads and dwellings. Well-sited play areas minimise the potential for complaints from local residents, and consideration should be given to providing sufficient distance between play areas, roads and housing when refurbishing or creating new facilities. Analysis found that opportunities existed to improve the setting of a small number of play areas by relocating the play area within the park or improving the quality of the environment adjacent to the play area. Aspiring to improve the use and appearance of existing parks would help to address the desire for this from local communities.

Natural Environment

Generally the condition of trees and grass within play areas was good, where it existed. The findings demonstrated that soft landscape within play areas is possible without any real problems of wear and tear. However, where there was evidence of chemical weed control (mainly at the boundaries of play areas), in nearly all cases it had resulted in soil erosion.

Analysis found that better provision was needed at park play areas for:

- More play opportunities to experience natural elements of planting, earthworks, logs, boulders, water, sand etc., by design
- More opportunities for children to play freely in unfenced play spaces, by appropriate design
- Chemical weed control to be eliminated where possible, and a shift in maintenance operations towards alternative management alongside design that will support this to happen, for the creation of more natural playscapes

Aspiring to provide imaginative, natural play spaces would help to address the desire for this from local play organisations and communities.

Litter and Vandalism Management

Audit findings show that there was no visible problem with strewn litter at any of the park play areas surveyed. This indicated that litter management in park play areas was successful. However, the design and condition of litter bins was poor and it is recommended these should be replaced with fixed metal bins.

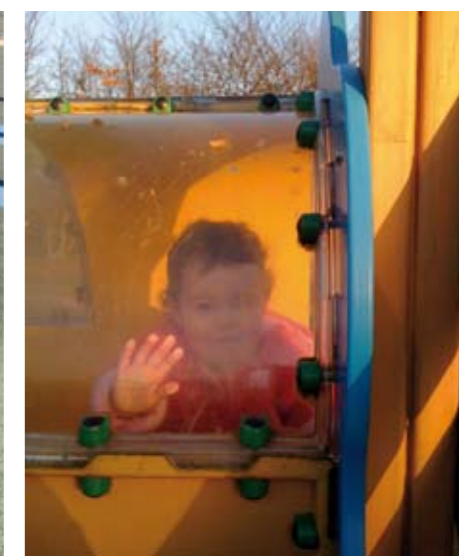
The results found that hazardous waste (glass, needles and condoms) was not a problem. The evidence counters a perceived problem of hazardous waste in play areas, sometimes cited as a reason for resisting installation of youth shelters and use of loose-fill impact-absorbing surfacing.

Graffiti was the greatest problem at sites, followed by fire damage. Knife damage was also notable. Local problems of graffiti, knife and fire damage should continue to be tackled by targeted initiatives coordinated between the Police, Fire Service and Youth agencies in the City.

Where refurbished play areas are planned in areas where vandalism has been identified, the success of the scheme will depend in part on designers engaging young people in the proposals to make them as relevant as possible, and agreeing on a design specification that is robust. Involving parents, children and young people in influencing decisions affecting the planning of play facilities; providing clean, safe, exciting play areas; tackling vandalism, graffiti and arson, would help to address the desire for these from local communities and play organisations.

Age and Condition of Equipment

Analysis found that new provision was needed at sites that had not been refurbished under the 2000 improvement programme. In addition, improvements were recommended at all remaining sites. Aspiring to provide better quality play and youth facilities would help to address the desire for this from local communities and play organisations.



Paths and Safer Surfaces

Analysis found that opportunities existed to improve the quality of paths and safer surfaces by providing:

- New, safer surfacing where it is unsuitable or there is none under play equipment
- Repairs to safer surfacing, internal paths and approach paths
- Site-specific maintenance tailored to the design and level of use, i.e. a destination facility will warrant a different regime than a doorstep play area (this applies to maintenance of play areas generally, including surfacing).

Fencing

Analysis found opportunities existed to repaint and repair fences and gates, and that some fencing was unnecessary, and also recommended consideration of removing fences at play areas where the sites are not close to roads or where the park boundary is fenced. Fenced play areas do not foster full community interaction with and responsibility for play spaces. More emphasis should be placed on engaging the community to encourage responsible dog ownership, as well as sensibly locating play areas away from busy roads.

Lighting

Analysis found that there was a need to undertake a cost-benefit-analysis of lighting youth facilities (Multi-Use Games Area, skatepark etc) and the approach path, with a view to extending the use of the facilities during seasons of shorter daylight hours. Aspiring to provide appropriate lighting of play and youth facilities would help to address the desire in local communities and from play organisations for better lighting.

Seating and Cycle Storage

Seating can be provided informally and for children it can also serve as a play function if well-designed. Analysis found opportunities existed to improve the quality of seating at park play areas by providing:

- Seating where there is none, insufficient or where existing provision is in poor condition or padlocked to fencing
- Picnic tables and bike racks to be designed into new or refurbished play spaces
- Some existing seating to be repaired or repainted

Information Signs

Analysis found that opportunities existed to improve the quality of visitor experience by providing welcome signage at the main entrance to park play areas and giving information on:

- Dog restrictions, promoting a positive message and giving helpful information
- Park public toilet locations and opening times
- Contact telephone numbers to report problems or give feedback

Park Toilets

Analysis found opportunities existed to improve the quality of toilet provision by providing:

- Clear signage on all park toilets and information boards stating opening times
- Better access to existing toilets in parks by opening toilets at the stated times and opening toilets in park pavilions even when these are not booked for events

Aspiring to provide better quality toilet provision would help to address a priority for local communities and play organisations. Consideration should be given to investing in a repairs and refurbishment programme for park toilets. Where facilities are upgraded, provision should be made for baby changing and people with disabilities. There should be a clear hierarchy of provision in parks to ensure an appropriate distribution of toilet provision and priorities for investment.



6.5 Management Arrangements

There are numerous statute laws that affect the use and operation of outdoor play spaces, the most notable of these is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974³⁶, which places a legal duty of care upon owners of play spaces for the health and safety of the public.

However, there is no specific legal responsibility to provide inspection and maintenance programmes which cover equipped play spaces, but such procedures are recommended as “best practice” by the British Standards Institute, the Health & Safety Executive, insurers and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. For providers of children’s outdoor play spaces the current Standards adopted by the play industry are notably: BS EN:1176:2008 - Part 1³⁷ sets out general safety requirements and test methods for playground equipment and surfacing and BS EN:1176:2008 - Part 7³⁸ sets out guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playgrounds. BS EN 1177:2008³⁹ and BS 7188:1998+A2:2009⁴⁰ sets out guidance on impact attenuating playground surfacing: determination of critical fall height, performance requirements and test methods.

Dundee City Council operates and maintains its own play spaces in parks and open spaces, and the Council’s procedures for the safety management of its play spaces meet guidelines on inspections, maintenance and recording set out in BS EN 1176-7³⁸. Outdoor play spaces in parks are owned and maintained by the Leisure and Communities Department; all other council outdoor play spaces e.g. in schools and open spaces are maintained by Dundee Contract Services. The Waste Management Department undertakes litter collection from dog and litter bins, litter picking and path sweeping; graffiti is dealt with by the Rapid Response Team.

Housing Associations, NHS Tayside, trusts, charities and other organisations should ensure that they have adequate safety management arrangements in place for the play spaces that they own and operate.

Good maintenance regimes can improve play provision and help to meet the expectations of parents, the general public and the courts. For instance, well managed and maintained play spaces are more likely to be well used, thereby raising informal supervision/self policing and are less likely to suffer serious vandalism.

Reviewing maintenance and replacement procedures can improve efficiency and release resources for other measures. Owners and operators can achieve this by setting up an appropriate system for the safety management of their play spaces; in particular, undertaking an annual review that systematically assesses the effectiveness of all safety measures used and altering them if circumstances deem it appropriate.

No maintenance inspection programme is worthwhile unless an appropriate system exists for recording what repairs are needed, for budgeting and programming the work, and checking it is carried out correctly.



7 play policy statement



7.1 Play Policy Statement

The Dundee Partnership recognises the significance and value of play and the importance of play opportunities in the general environment. It is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments, free from unacceptable risks, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore both themselves and the world, through their freely chosen play. The policy is based on the understanding that every child needs opportunities to play both on their own and with others.

The Dundee Partnership is committed to ensuring that environments, services and provision for play are attractive, welcoming and accessible to every child irrespective of age, gender, background or origin, or of individual capacities and abilities.

The Dundee Partnership will work towards increasing play opportunities for, and eliminating barriers to, the take-up of play provision by disabled children and children with specific cultural needs. This will take the form of developing increased inclusive provision. All mainstream services must be welcoming and accessible to all children, and the use of specialist play services should only be at the choice of the child or their advocate.

The Dundee Partnership has agreed the following play strategy policy objectives:

1. Promote Dundee as a child-friendly and family-friendly environment in which to live; in recognition that children play in a variety of public spaces, as well as in dedicated provision.
2. Ensure there is access to the widest possible range of fun, stimulating, safe and quality play experiences and play environments for all children, young people and families in Dundee.
3. Ensure that all play provision will enable children to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk, which will encourage children and young people to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capabilities.
4. Involve and consult children, young people and families in the development of play provision.
5. Promote, safeguard and enhance public open space as an environment for play to establish a healthy, active lifestyle from childhood.
6. Sustain play provision over the longterm and ensure effective use of funding.

Judgements about quality of provision will be based on the degree to which children are provided with opportunities to experience directly:

- the natural elements
- fabricated and natural materials and tools - consumables, 'loose parts'
- challenge - in the physical environment, in the social context and in private
- free movement - running, jumping, climbing, rolling, balancing
- emotions - both painful and pleasurable, the chance to validate a range of feelings
- a variety of stimulation to the senses - hearing, taste, smell, touch, sight
- play with identity - drama, dressing up, role plays, masks, face painting
- varied social interactions - freely chosen across the age, ability, gender, ethnic and cultural barriers, co-operating, resolving conflict, chatting, negotiating, sharing
- change - building/demolishing, transforming environments, the effect of the seasons and weather, growth and decay, predicting and planning, interesting physical environments - plantings, varied levels, enclosed/open spaces, mounds, steps, walls, shelters, surfaces, platforms, seating, privacy, vistas, flexibility.⁴¹

This policy is rooted in the values stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child²¹, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991. The Rights of the Child to freedom of expression and association, to be respected and valued and to play are enshrined in the UN Convention. Article 31, in particular, says:

“States’ parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

States’ parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.”

It is the aim of this play policy to underpin the outdoor play and youth area strategy and the strategic targets.

8 local standards



8.1 Explanation of Standards

There is a need for different types of outdoor play and youth areas for children and young people from birth to 18 years, ranging from a daily visit to a safe place to play for toddlers and parents on their doorstep, to the family day trip visiting a large destination facility that caters for all ages of children and young people. These needs can best be met by aiming to provide a hierarchy of play and youth areas, with each category of facility providing for the different needs of children and young people as they develop from their earliest years to early adulthood. Improvements in provision will be tailored, through consultation at a local level, to best match community aspirations and those most in need.

The local standard and hierarchy for play and youth areas in Dundee will be the standards and recommendations detailed in the handbook, 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play'³⁵, published by FIT (the revised publication of the 'The Six Acre Standard'). An estimated 70% of planning authorities in the UK refer to, use or adopt the recommendations of 'The Six Acre Standard' in their development plans. This underlines the practical relevance and value of FIT recommendations.

Guidelines on the category of provision required, its design, size and the maximum distance from the homes of children and young people will be those detailed in FIT's handbook. In this way, Dundee can work towards providing a fair distribution of play and youth areas across the City, which will meet the needs of local communities and visitors.

The play and youth area hierarchy will be made up of the following categories:

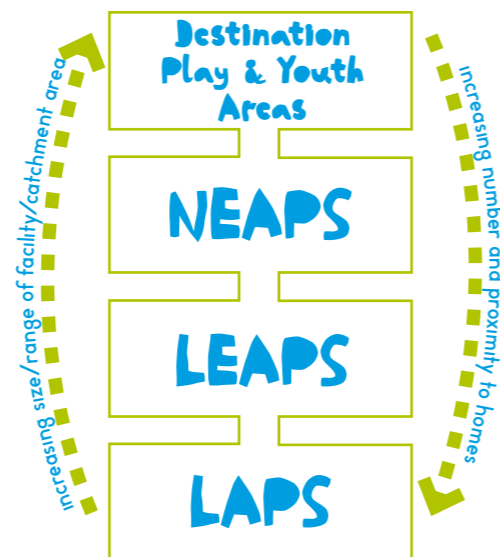
Destination Play and Youth Areas

for all ages of children and young people - a family day trip

NEAPS - Neighbourhood Equipped Play and Youth Areas, for children and young people - up to 600 metres from home

LEAPS - Local Equipped Areas for Play, for young children learning independence - up to 240 metres from home

LAPS - Local 'Doorstep' Areas for Play, for toddlers with parents - up to 60 metres from home



Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play

Quantity Standard for Children and Youth Playing Spaces

Playing Space	Hectares per 1000 population
Designated Equipped Playing Space	0.25
Informal Playing Space	0.55
Total Playing Space	0.80

Quality Standard for Children and Youth Playing Spaces

Dundee has set its own quality benchmark standard using 'Quality and Play Value Assessments for Equipped Play Areas', which were developed and applied in the audit of Council park play areas. It does not set an absolute measure, but a reasonable aspiration and benchmark against which to measure the quality of existing children's play space.

Accessibility Standard for Children and Youth Playing Spaces

Category of Space	Straight Line Distance
Local 'Doorstep' Areas for Play (LAPS)	60 metres
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs)	240 metres
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)	600 metres

There are variations in play provision across Dundee, both below and above the local standard. Such variations are inevitable and the strategy exists to promote guidance on what should be worked towards, particularly where the existing standard of provision is lower than the Local Standard for Play in Dundee.

9 strategic targets for play and youth areas



7.1 Approach

“Working towards better play opportunities for children and young people in Dundee”

A coordinated city-wide approach will be taken for the future development of outdoor play facilities and services with strong links to strategic targets. It is proposed that under the Building Stronger Communities strategic theme group of the Dundee Partnership, a Play Partnership is established with responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of the strategy.

It is proposed that the Play Partnership will:

- Work with partners towards the establishment of a post of Outdoor Play Development Officer through a joint funding arrangement, to enable the recommendations contained in the strategy to be driven forward (a draft remit is set out in Appendix I)
- Designate the City’s Play Champion, and that this post-holder should be an ex-officio member of the Play Partnership and receive regular briefings on progress to enable them to act as an advocate for the promotion of play and for the development of play provision and opportunities in the City

Play developments, policy and initiatives will emerge through the community planning process, corporate planning and priorities, and through links with other strategies. These should be subject, at an early stage, to review by the Play Partnership and necessary approvals from agencies with ownership and/or management liabilities. The Play Partnership will identify outdoor play development priorities by assessing projects, policy and initiatives against three core criteria: Would it meet strategic targets? Would it meet play policy objectives? Would it meet the needs and/or aspirations of user groups and/or those most in need?

To coordinate play developments, an action-plan working document will need to be reviewed annually by the Play Partnership. Progress on strategic targets should be monitored and performance indicators will need to be agreed between the lead agency and partners responsible for taking forward and delivering play-related actions.

Play initiatives and improvements should be tailored, through consultation at a local level, to best match community aspirations and needs. Opportunities identified in the outdoor play and youth area strategy should be used to inform related policy, emerging play developments, initiatives and local strategies.

Strategic targets for outdoor play are listed in the following tables; each target is linked to Dundee Partnership Strategic Outcomes listed in the Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012.⁴²

7.2 Tables Of Strategic Targets For Play And Youth Areas

Key strategic targets are indicated in the tables below as **KEY TARGET**, and these have been informed by feedback through consultation with children, young people and through local community planning exercises.

OBJECTIVE I	Promote Dundee as a child-friendly and family-friendly environment in which to live; in recognition that children play in a variety of public spaces as well as in dedicated provision.
<p>TARGET I.1</p>	<p>Establish a Play Partnership under the Building Stronger Communities strategic theme group of the Dundee Partnership, with the responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of the strategy, designating a Play Champion for the City, and working towards the establishment of a post of Outdoor Play Development Officer through a joint funding arrangement.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Building Stronger Communities strategic theme group of the Dundee Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Officer time, possible shared investment</p> <p>Timescale: 2010-2011</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome: 3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p>	

TARGET I.2	<p>Remove some of the barriers to play opportunities by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing more safer routes to play areas, e.g. increased safety measures on roads closest to play areas 2. Providing more home-zone schemes/safer streets initiatives that promote doorstep play opportunities 3. Removing all unenforceable 'No Ball Games' signs from parks and greenspaces where children have a right to play or recreation <p>Lead Agency: City Development Department, Dundee City Council (1+2) Dundee Contract Services Department, Dundee City Council (3)</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Leisure & Communities Department, Tayside Police, local group with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Ensure adult services such as housing, transport and development planning put a greater focus on the needs of young children and families</p>	

TARGET I.3	<p>Mediation initiatives to be devised locally to reduce fears, to ensure children and young people are enabled to play in their own neighbourhood, and to resolve genuine conflicts.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Leisure and Communities Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Community Safety Partnership, Youth Workers, Tayside Police and local groups with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>9e - Short-term Outcome: Increase the number of community neighbourhood representatives, structures and networks</p>	

TARGET I.4	<p>Improve signage for and access to toilets in Council parks with equipped play areas; consider investing in better quality toilet provision in parks with equipped play areas.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Play Partnership</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>Ilf - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p>	

TARGET I.5	<p>Develop initiatives engaging local communities to encourage responsible dog ownership at/near play areas.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department and Dundee Contract Services Department. Dundee City Council and other landowners of public greenspace</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Dog Warden Service, Environmental Health Department Social Housing Landlords</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>Ilf - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p> <p>Ilf - Short-term Outcome: Increase awareness and encourage community and individual action to protect and enhance open spaces and biodiversity</p>	

KEY TARGET	<p>TARGET I.6</p> <p>Increase the number of schools opening up their greenspaces to local children and young people after school hours and during school holidays for casual as well as organised play and recreation.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Education Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Local Community Planning Partnerships</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p>	

OBJECTIVE 2	Ensure there is access to the widest possible range of fun, stimulating, safe and quality play experiences and play environments for all children, young people and families in Dundee.
TARGET 2.1	<p>In areas with deficiencies, invest in new, high quality play and youth areas and invest in the quality of existing sites to the adopted standard for play and youth areas, through planning measures such as Section 75 Agreements, partnership funding and other sources. These to include regeneration areas (Hilltown, Charleston, Lochee, Menziehill, City Centre Waterfront, Mill O' Mains, Whitfield), green field development sites and established built-up areas.</p> <p>Lead Agency: City Development Department and Leisure & Communities Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Play Partnership, local groups with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p>	

TARGET 2.2	<p>Increase the number of play-related outcomes and actions in relevant strategies and initiatives.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Corporate partners</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p>	

TARGET 2.3	<p>Increase the number of park play and youth areas relocated to a more appropriate location, through partnership funding, Section 75 agreements and other sources, improved to the adopted standard for play:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocate and improve South Road Park play area as a NEAP near to MUGA/ Lynch Sports Centre 2. Relocate and improve Finlathen Park play area as a LEAP near to wheeled sports facility 3. Relocate and improve Dudhope Park play area as a NEAP near to MUGA/toilets <p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Local Community Planning Partnerships, outdoor play providers, local groups with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p>	

<p>TARGET 2.4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KEY TARGET</p>	<p>Increase the number of park play and youth areas refurbished and improved to the adopted standard for play and youth areas through partnership funding, Section 75 agreements and other sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refurbish inclusive play area at Camperdown Park destination facility 2. Refurbish 6 sites as NEAPs at Magdalen Yard Green, Victoria Park, Lochee Park, Fairmuir Park, Dawson Park and Clatto Park adventure play area (remove small woodland play area) 3. Enhance destination sites at Castle Green, Camperdown Park toddler and junior play areas and Dudhope Park skatepark environs 4. Improve NEAP site at Mill O' Mains Park 5. Improve LEAP sites at Stobsmuir Park and Gillies Park. Also replace/enhance swings' sites at both 6. Improve LEAP sites at Orchar Park, Bridge Street and Claypotts Park 7. Develop MUGA/youth area in Baxter Park near tennis courts/web project building <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Local Community Planning Partnerships, Play Partnership, local groups with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p>	

<p>TARGET 2.5</p>	<p>Undertake an audit of Dundee City Council outdoor play services including playwork training and develop targets and an action plan.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Community Officers, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Education Department, Play Partnership, local groups with an interest in developing opportunities for play</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p>	

OBJECTIVE 3	Ensure that all play provision will enable children to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk, which will encourage children and young people to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capabilities.
TARGET 3.1	<p>Undertake measures over the short to medium-term, to improve access to and opportunities for outdoor play for children with disabilities, by increasing the number of Council play areas that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are audited and assessed for quality, accessibility and play value 2. Have an approach path to the main entrance 3. Have main entrances wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs 4. Have inclusive play opportunities and inclusive seating 5. Have designated disabled parking bays nearby in the street or in park car parks, where appropriate <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department and Dundee Contract Services, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Dundee Local Access Forum, City Development Department, Play Partnership</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase access to physical activities</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p>	

TARGET 3.2	<p>Develop an action plan with the aim of making all outdoor play provision inclusive:</p> <p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Dundee Local Access Forum, Outdoor play providers</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase access to physical activities</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p>	

KEY TARGET	<p>Increase the range of outdoor play opportunities in parks and greenspaces or where there is an under-provision of public greenspace and limited opportunities for creating it, for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure external funding for a Play Ranger Service 2. Promote and support Playday - the annual celebration of children's right to play⁴³ 3. Support the development of other outdoor, supervised free-play initiatives such as mobile projects, adventure playgrounds or play schemes
	<p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Outdoor play providers, external groups with an interest in developing play opportunities</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p>	

TARGET 3.4	<p>Through programmed refurbishment, or where new sites are approved, increase the number of play and youth areas that provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imaginative, natural play elements 2. More opportunities to experience challenge, excitement and acceptable risk 3. Opportunities for children to play freely in unfenced play spaces, by appropriate design 4. Appropriate seating, cycle storage, litter bins and picnic provision 5. Play Priority Area signage or play area welcome signage with useful information at the main entrance <p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, Forestry Commission, local schools and external groups with an interest in developing play opportunities</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Improve the quality and diversity of the City's open space</p>	

OBJECTIVE 4	Involve and consult children, young people and families in the development of play provision.
TARGET 4.1	<p>Increase the number of parents, carers, children and young people involved in influencing decisions affecting the planning and maintenance of outdoor play and youth areas.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Youth Team and Community Officers, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Tayside Police, Voluntary youth work organisations</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3e - Short-term Outcome: Continue to develop the involvement of young people in shaping services through community planning processes</p> <p>8c - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of people engaged in the process of local community planning</p>	

TARGET 4.2	<p>Develop initiatives with young people to tackle hotspots of antisocial behaviour, graffiti, fire or knife damage at play and youth areas.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Youth Justice Strategy Group/Antisocial Behaviour Team</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Youth Team, Community Wardens, Tayside Police</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3i - Short-term Outcome: Run programmes that address antisocial behaviour in young people</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Increase awareness and encourage community and individual action to protect and enhance open spaces and biodiversity</p>	

OBJECTIVE 5	Promote, safeguard and enhance public open space as an environment for play, to establish a healthy, active lifestyle from childhood.
TARGET 5.1	<p>Aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of planning briefs where the adopted standard for play and youth areas is met Increase the number of play and youth areas, created as part of new or regenerated development, that are protected by legal measures such as a Deed of Covenant <p>Lead Agency: City Development Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Leisure & Communities Department, Dundee City Council; local groups with an interest in developing play opportunities</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Ensure adult services such as housing, transport and development planning put a greater focus on the needs of young children and families</p>	

TARGET 5.2	<p>Develop and approve Local Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategies that build on the targets and standards set out in the Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Greenspace Audit Working Groups</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: External groups with an interest in developing play opportunities</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Ensure adult services such as housing, transport and development planning put a greater focus on the needs of young children and families</p>	

TARGET 5.3	<p>Develop and adopt local plan policy, which enshrines the Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy and Open Space Strategy, as material considerations in assessing applications for planning permission.</p> <p>Lead Agency: City Development Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Leisure & Communities Department (Environment Development Section), Dundee City Council</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
KEY TARGET	<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Ensure adult services such as housing, transport and development planning put a greater focus on the needs of young children and families</p>

OBJECTIVE 6	Sustain play provision over the long term and ensure effective use of funding.
TARGET 6.1	<p>Increase the number of new or refurbished play and youth areas subject, at an early stage, to review by the Play Partnership and to necessary approvals, to ensure that location, liabilities, design and sustainability are given due consideration, and to help prioritise improvements for those most in need.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Play Partnership</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Play providers and agencies with ownership/management/design responsibilities</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
KEY TARGET	<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p> <p>3e - Short-term Outcome: Continue to develop the involvement of young people in shaping services through community planning processes</p>

TARGET 6.2	<p>Improve Council play and youth area maintenance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annually review maintenance and repair procedures and introduce improvements 2. Introduce and maintain an electronic, corporate system to record accident and maintenance inspection reports for play and youth areas 3. Introduce and maintain a GIS-based corporate play and youth area management record system 4. Reduce the number of play and youth areas where chemical weed control is used and adopt alternative methods alongside design that supports this change 5. Increase the number of sites where maintenance is tailored to suit the design, category of facility and level of use 6. Increase the number of sites where visibility/informal supervision has been improved <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department and Dundee Contract Services Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Play Partnership, Quality Assurance Team (Leisure & Communities Department)</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of play areas improved</p> <p>9a - Short-term Outcome: Increase number of well maintained green and open spaces</p>	

TARGET 6.3	<p>Provide information and advice on funding sources and grant applications to groups with an interest in developing play opportunities in Dundee.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Economic Development Division, City Development Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: Play Partnership</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>11f - Short-term Outcome: Increase awareness and encourage community and individual action to protect and enhance open spaces and biodiversity</p>	
TARGET 6.4	<p>Undertake a cost-benefit feasibility study to consider lighting identified Council play and youth facilities and approach paths, that would extend their use during seasons of shorter daylight hours.</p> <p>Lead Agency: Leisure & Communities Department and Dundee Contract Services Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Partners/Inputs: City Development Department, Dundee City Council</p> <p>Timescale: 2009-2014</p>
<p>Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012; Intermediate Outcome:</p> <p>5a - Short-term Outcome: Increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>3f - Short-term Outcome: Improve play opportunities and addressing barriers to play</p>	

Appendix 1

Draft Remit - Outdoor Play Development Officer

Job Purpose

To co-ordinate and develop the provision of outdoor play city-wide. To work in partnership with Dundee City Council departments, statutory, voluntary and community sector partners to implement an integrated Dundee Outdoor Play and Youth Area Strategy, and to ensure that the views of children and young people and their families are integral to the implementation of the play strategy within Dundee.

Relationships

Children and young people, families and carers

The Play Partnership

Partner agencies including community, voluntary and statutory agencies

Dundee Partnership theme groups 'Children and Young Persons' and

'Building Stronger Communities'

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. Lead the implementation of Dundee City Council's Play and Youth Area Strategy relating to the provision of play opportunities for children, young people and families
2. Raise the profile of play locally and promote its importance in the personal development of all children and young people
3. Work in partnership with Council departments, statutory/voluntary and other related agencies, to prepare and implement a working action plan to facilitate and co-ordinate outdoor play opportunities for children and young people
4. Input into relevant corporate strategies on outdoor play provision and services
5. Develop the provision of an effective and efficient network of equipped, outdoor play and youth areas and outdoor play services city-wide
6. Lead and support the active involvement of partners to ensure the development of integrated local play strategies in the City
7. Develop participation/consultation processes to consult with families, carers, play providers, relevant statutory/voluntary agencies, children and young people in Dundee on outdoor play provision and make these findings available
8. Research, provide information, advice and guidance on play issues and disseminate best practice to statutory, voluntary and community sector partners
9. Support the Council and partners in the development of new play sites and effective management and maintenance of Dundee's existing play and youth areas
10. Identify, review and set strategic targets for outdoor play services in Dundee
11. Review play-related training provision and needs, and set strategic targets
12. Ensure initiatives undertaken by Council departments take cognisance of outdoor play provision and services where relevant
13. Maintain an awareness of new developments, trends and best practice with regard to play, and report on any subjects which might contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the service



Appendix 2

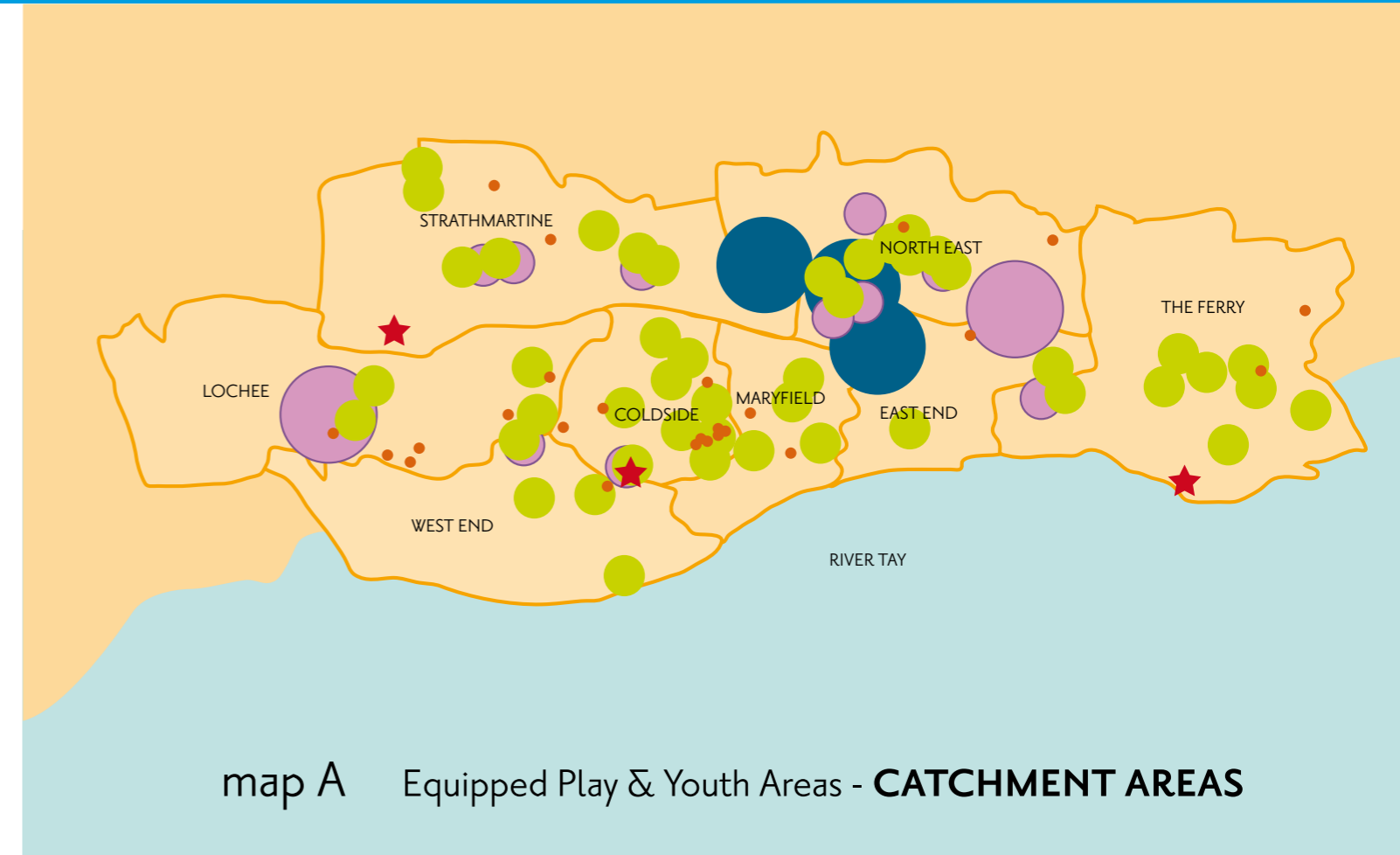
Green Flag Award - Key Criteria

The following is an outline of the key criteria interpreted in relation to play provision:

1. The overall impression of the play space should be **A Welcoming Place**, positive and inviting with good and safe access, good signage to it and equal access for all members of the community.
2. The play space must be a **Healthy, Safe, and Secure** place. Equipment and facilities must be safe to use, Health & Safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed; the play space must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse; dog fouling must be adequately addressed; toilets, drinking water, first aid and public telephones should be available nearby, and clearly sign posted.
3. For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, play spaces must be **Clean and Well Maintained**, in particular litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed; grounds, equipment and other features must be well maintained; a policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
4. **Sustainability** - Construction and maintenance practices for play spaces and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Where possible, 'reduce - reuse - recycle', practices should be applied. Pesticide use should be minimised and justified.
5. **Conservation and Heritage** - There should be appropriate management of natural features, wildlife, fauna and landscape features. Natural play spaces can contribute to and/or promote biodiversity objectives. Play areas in historic landscapes should be sensitively designed and managed.
6. Management should actively pursue **Community Involvement** in play and youth area provision. Management should be able to demonstrate knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use; evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved; appropriate provision for all sectors of the community.
7. There should be a **Marketing Strategy** in place, in practice and regularly reviewed; good provision of information to users both on site and available on the web, e.g. about play activities/events, ways to get involved; promotion of local play provision as a community resource.
8. Play provision must be included in the park **Management Plan** or **Strategy**, and this should clearly and adequately address all the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of play provision management. The plan must be actively implemented with targets/timescales monitored and reviewed.

Appendix 3

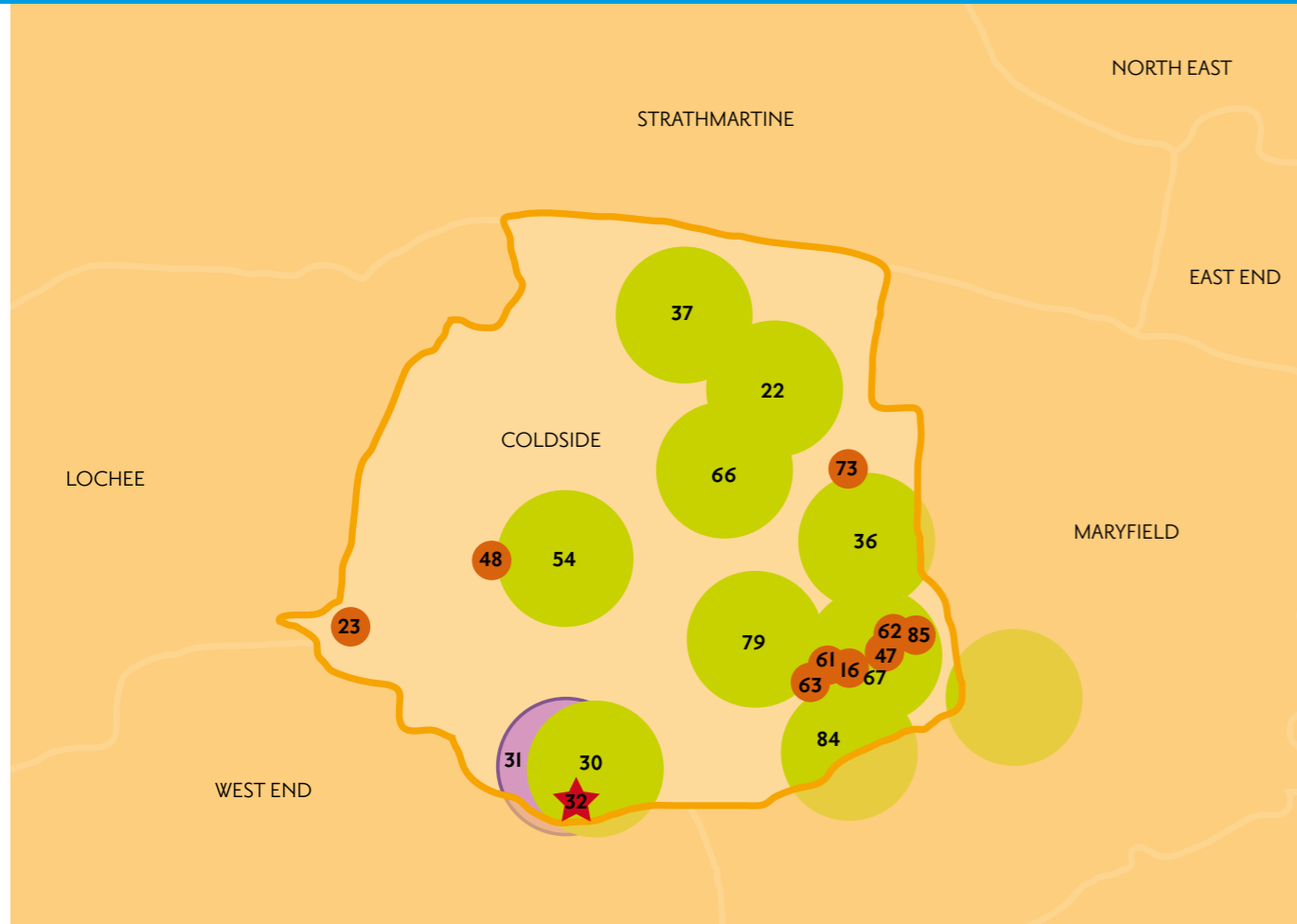
Maps A - I of Equipped Play & Youth Areas



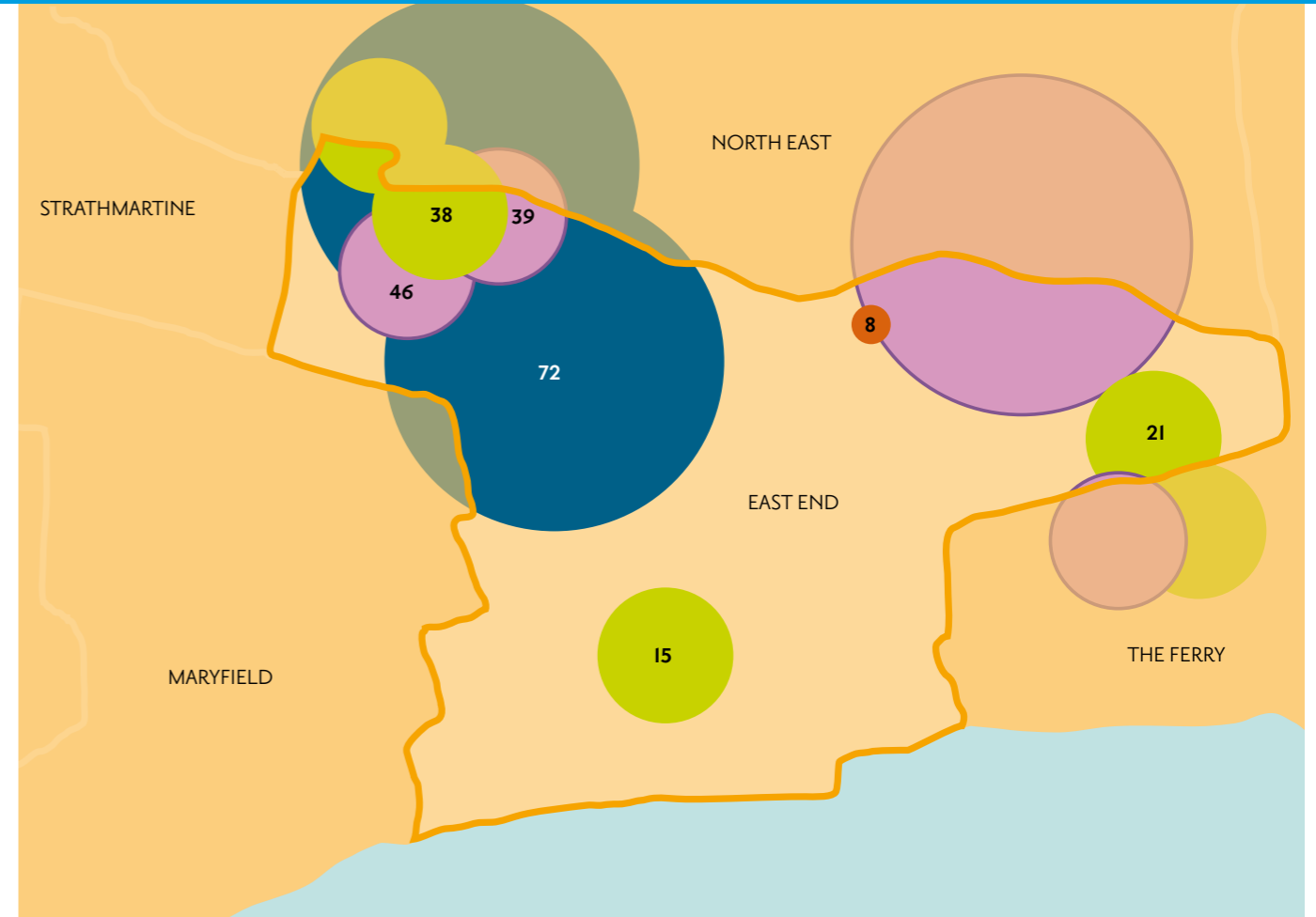
- LAP - Doorstep Play Area
- LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play
- NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
- Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities
- ★ Destination Facility

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map B Equipped Play & Youth Areas - COLDSIDE WARD



map C Equipped Play & Youth Areas - EAST END WARD



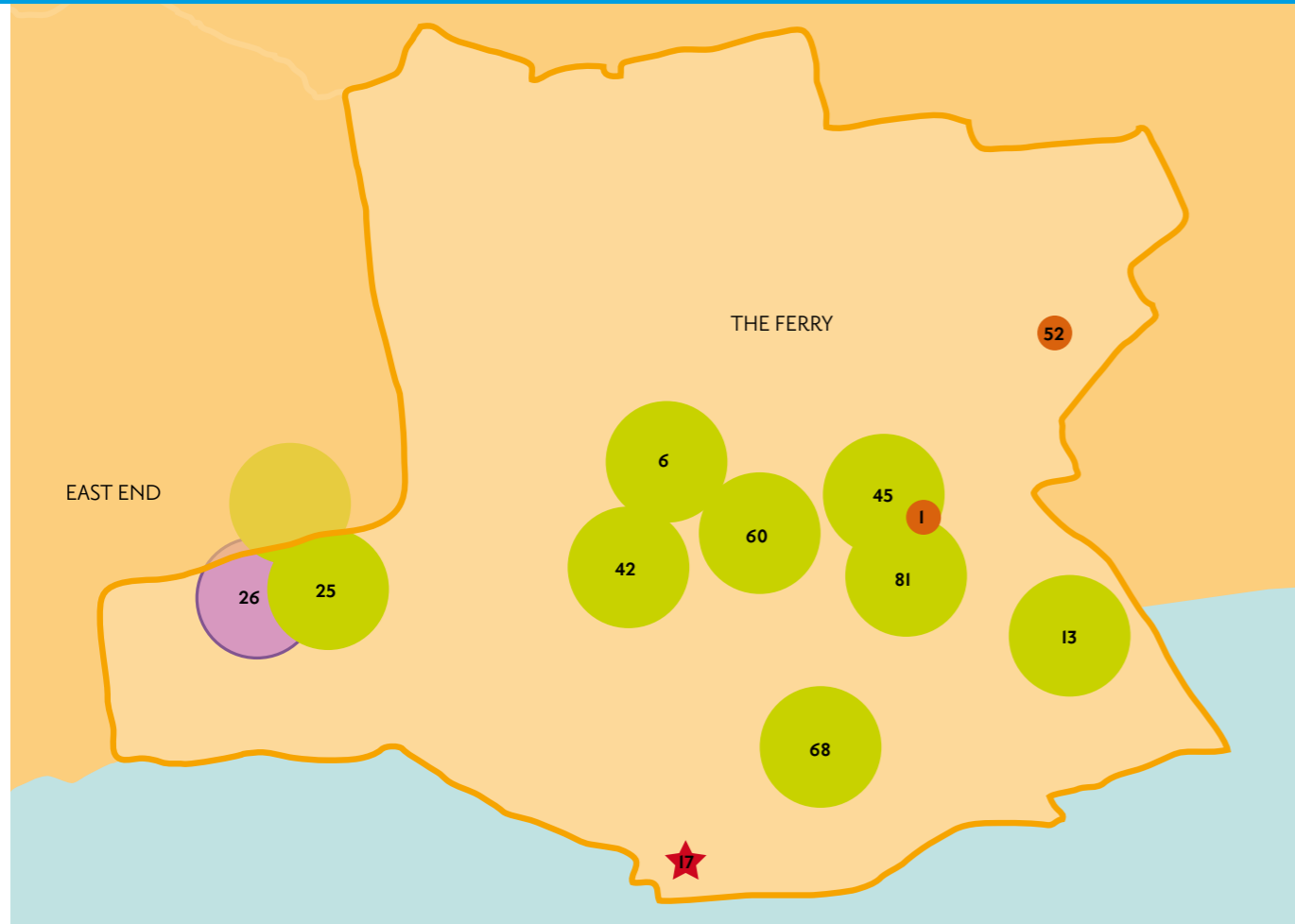
	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
LAP - Doorstep Play Area	23	Cobden Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play	30	Dudhope Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	72	Finlathen Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities	46	Finlathen Park Skatepark	DCC - L&C	Wheeled Sports
Destination Facility	32	Dudhope Park Skatepark	DCC - L&C	MUGA
	16	Carnegie Square	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	22	Cleington Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	31	Dudhope Park MUGA	DCC - L&C	MUGA
	36	Fairbairn Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	37	Fairmuir Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	47	Jamaica Square	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	48	Law Crescent (Kinpurnie Place)	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	54	Lawton Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	61	Maxwell Concierge 1	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	62	Maxwell Concierge 2	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	63	Maxwell Shops	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	66	Moncur Crescent	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	67	Nelson St/Maxwelltown Central	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	73	Sandeman St	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	79	Rosebank/Stirling Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	84	Wellgate Park	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	85	Wellington Square	DCC - DCS	Play Area

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	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
LAP - Doorstep Play Area	8	Ballindean Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play	15	Carlochie Place	DCC - DCS	Play Area
NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	72	Finlathen Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities	46	Finlathen Park Skatepark	DCC - L&C	Wheeled Sports
Destination Facility	32	Dudhope Park Skatepark	DCC - L&C	MUGA
	8	Ballindean Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	15	Carlochie Place	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	21	Claypotts Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	38	Finlathen Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	39	Finlathen Park Skatepark	DCC - L&C	Wheeled Sports
	46	Glennconnor Drive	DCC - DCS	Youth Shelter & Goal-end
	72	Pitairlie Road/Midlin Playzone	DCC - DCS	Play Area

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map D Equipped Play & Youth Areas - **THE FERRY WARD**

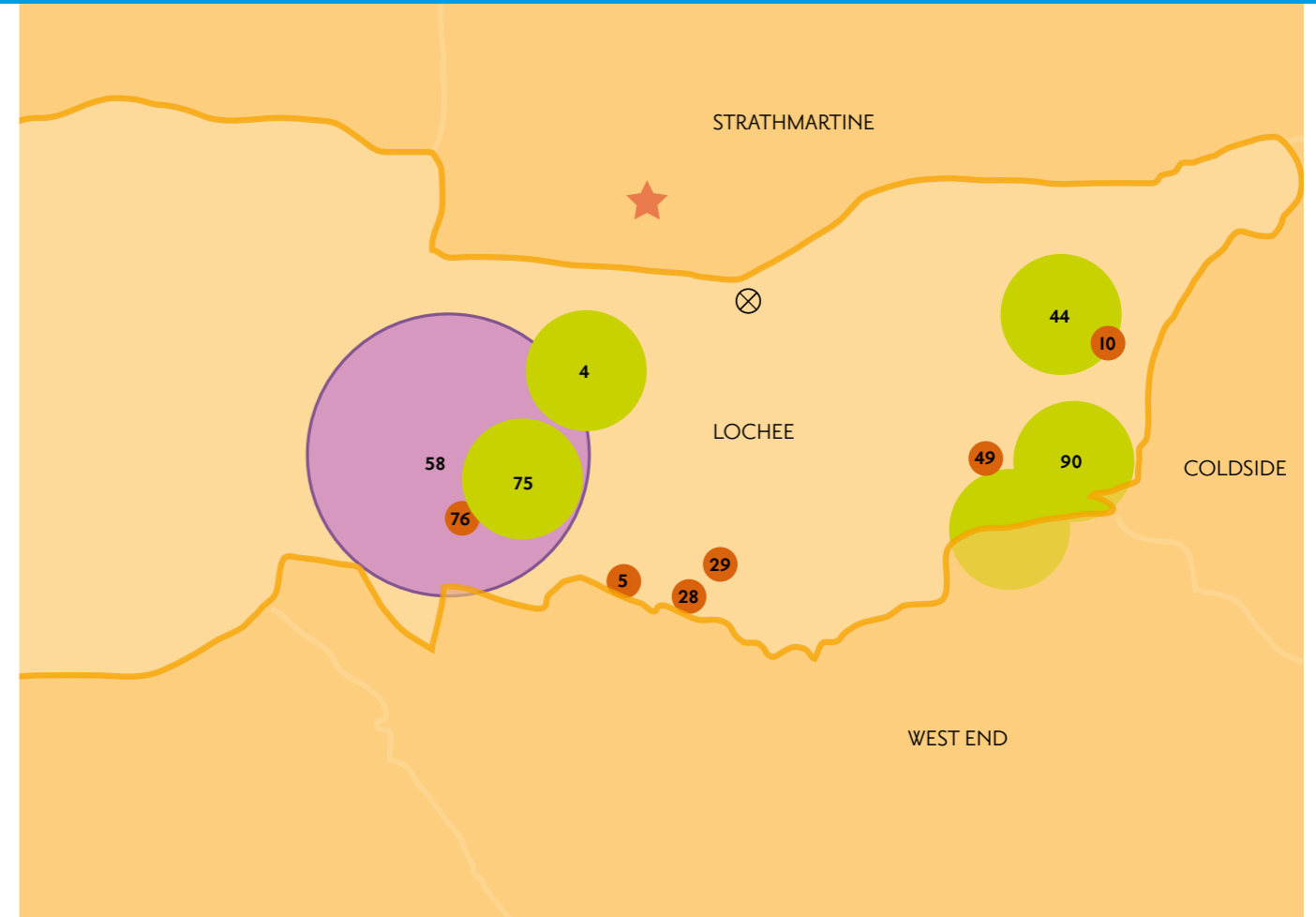


- LAP - Doorstep Play Area
- LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play
- NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
- Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities
- ★ Destination Facility

ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
1	Abercromby Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
6	Balgitto Park	GreenBelt Co.	Play Area
13	Bridge Street	DCC - L&C	Play Area
17	Castle Green	DCC - L&C	Play Area
25	Dawson Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
26	Dawson Park Basketball	DCC - L&C	Basketball Hoops
42	Fintry Place	DCC - DCS	Play Area
45	Gillies Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
52	Lawers Drive	GreenBelt Co.	Play Area
60	Marlee Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
68	Orchar Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
81	Strathmore Street, B/Ferry	DCC - DCS	Play Area

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map E Equipped Play & Youth Areas - **LOCHEE WARD**

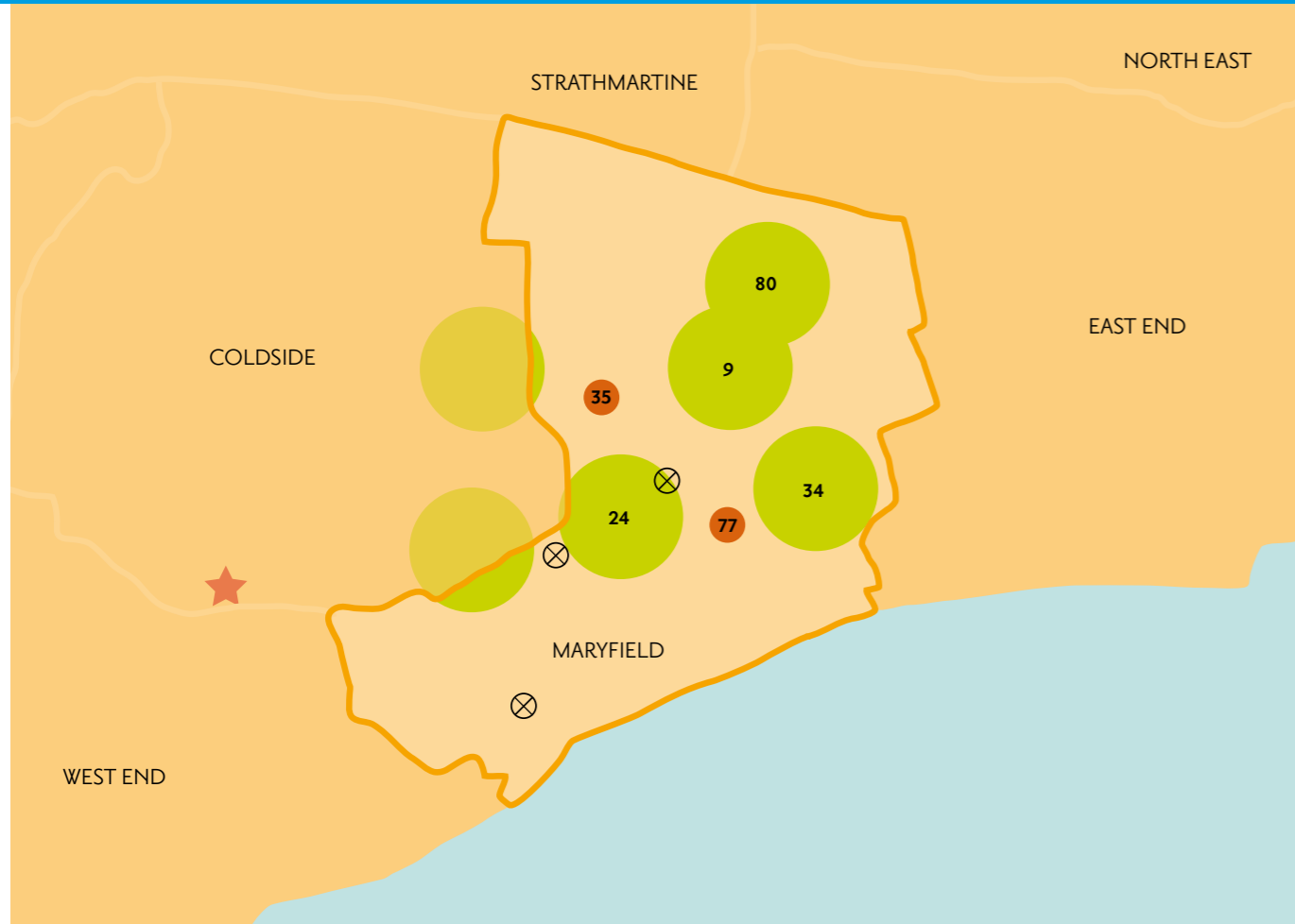


- LAP - Doorstep Play Area
- LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play
- NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
- Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities
- ★ Destination Facility
- ⊗ Removed Play Areas

ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
4	Balgarthno Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
5	Balgay Court	DCC - DCS	Play Area
10	Beechwood	DCC - DCS	Play Area
28	Dickson Avenue	DCC - DCS	Play Area
29	Dochart/Yarrow Terrace	DCC - DCS	Play Area
44	Foggylea	DCC - DCS	Play Area
49	Kirk St	DCC - DCS	Play Area
58	Lynch MUGA	DCC - L&C	MUGA
75	South Road Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
76	Spey Drive	DCC - DCS	Play Area
90	Whorterbank	DCC - DCS	Play Area & Youth Shelter

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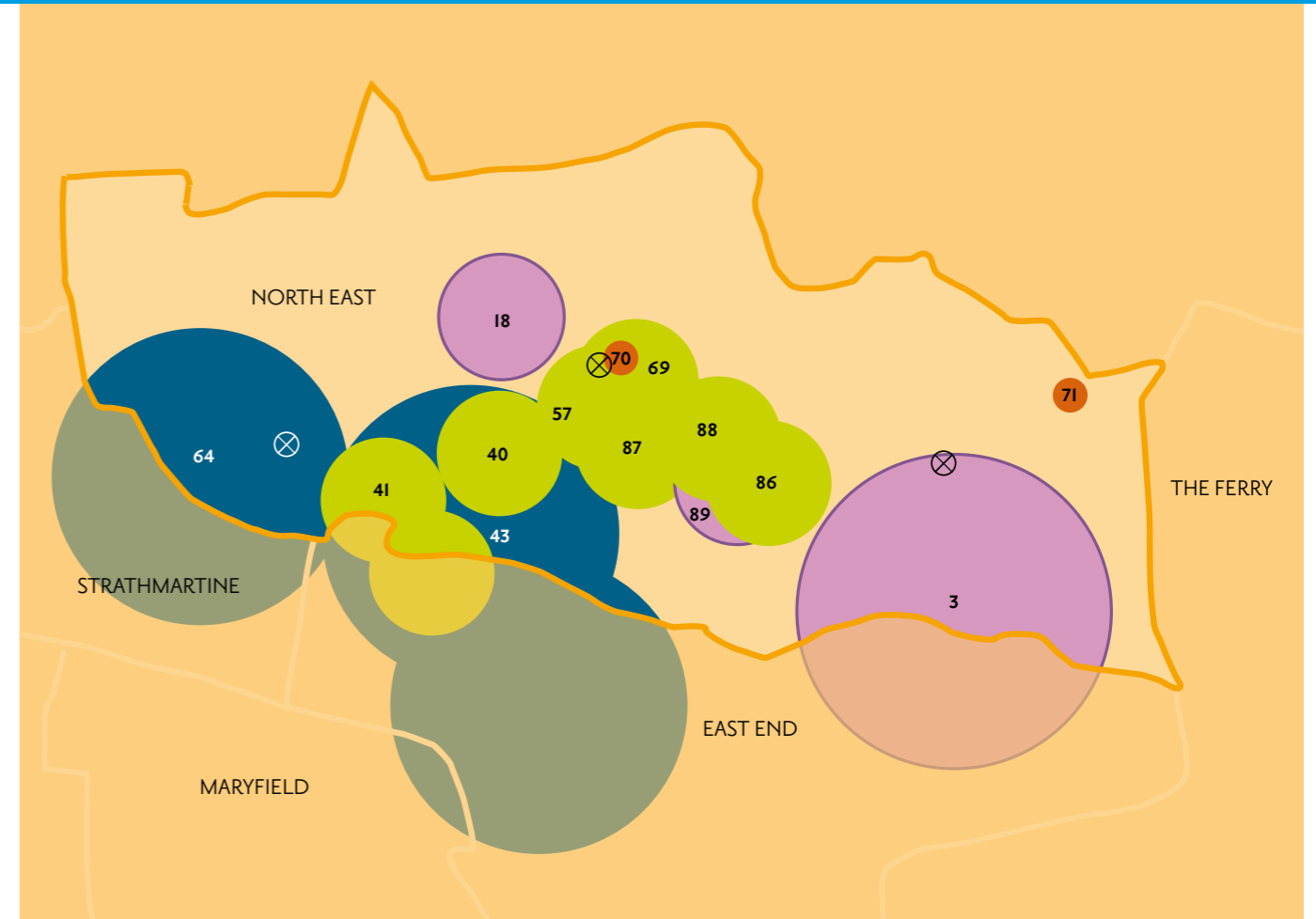
map F Equipped Play & Youth Areas - **MARYFIELD WARD**



	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
■ LAP - Doorstep Play Area				
■ LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play	9	Baxter Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	24	Crescent Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	34	Ellengowan Drive	Northern Housing Co Ltd	Play Area
■ NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	35	Malcolm Street	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	77	St Matthews Lane	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	80	Stobsmuir Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
■ Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities				
★ Destination Facility				
X Removed Play Areas				

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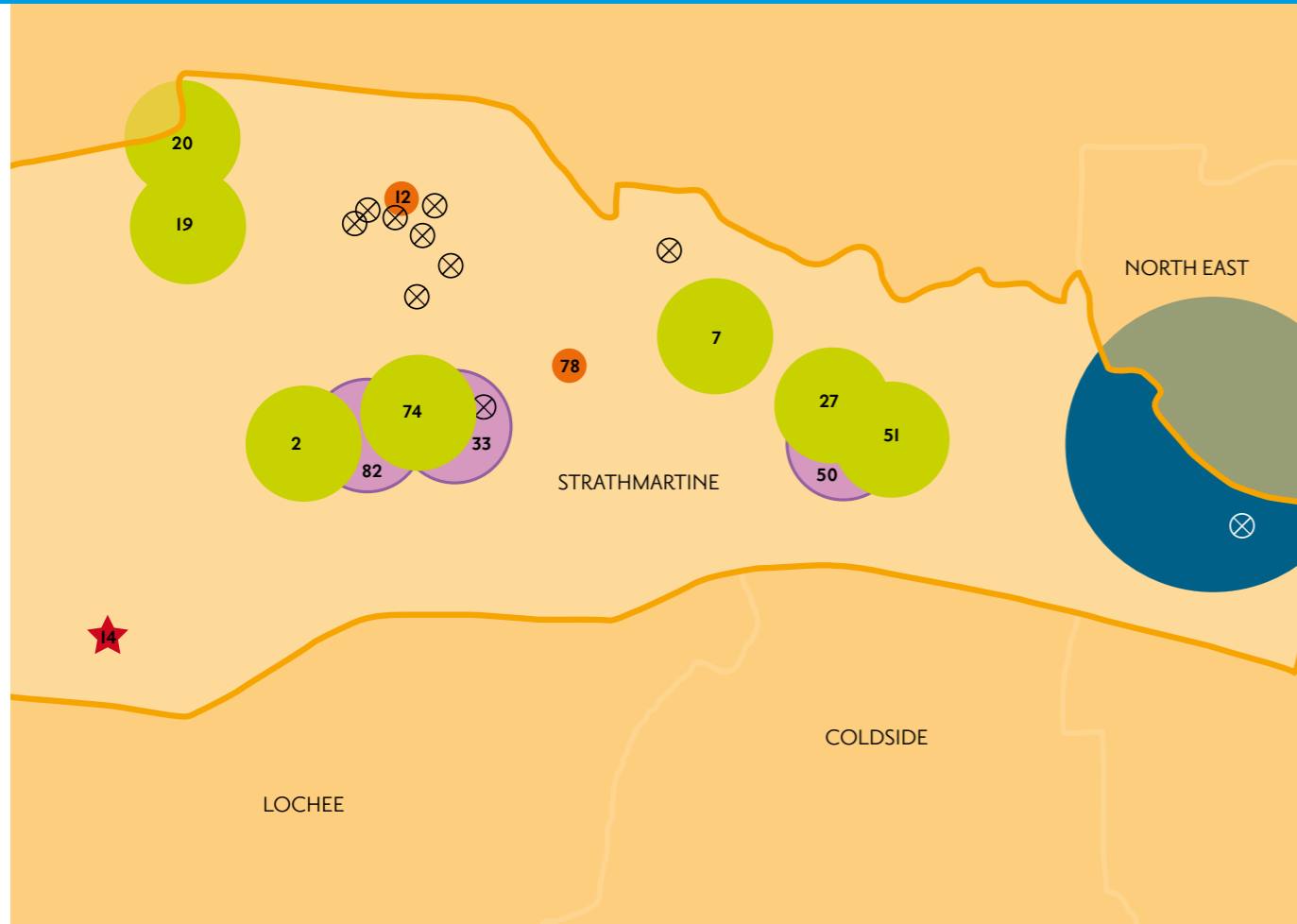
map G Equipped Play & Youth Areas - **NORTH EAST WARD**



	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
■ LAP - Doorstep Play Area				
■ LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play	3	Baldovie BMX	DCC - DCS	Wheeled Sports & Youth Shelter
■ NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	18	Cheviot Crescent	DCC - DCS	Muga & Youth Shelter
	40	Fintry Drive	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	41	Fintry Gardens	DCC - DCS	Play Area
■ Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities	43	Fintryside	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	57	Longhagh Road	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	64	Mill O' Mains Park	DCC - L&C	Muga, Youth Shelter & Play Area
★ Destination Facility	69	Ormiston Cres. - Craigievar Walk	Angus Housing	Play Area
	70	Ormiston Cres.- Cassidy Walk	Angus Housing	Play Area
	71	Peebles Drive	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	86	Whitfield Central Core	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	87	Whitfield Green West	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	88	Whitfield Green East	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	89	Whitfield Skatepark	DCC - DCS: land L&C: ramps	Wheeled Sports
X Removed Play Areas				

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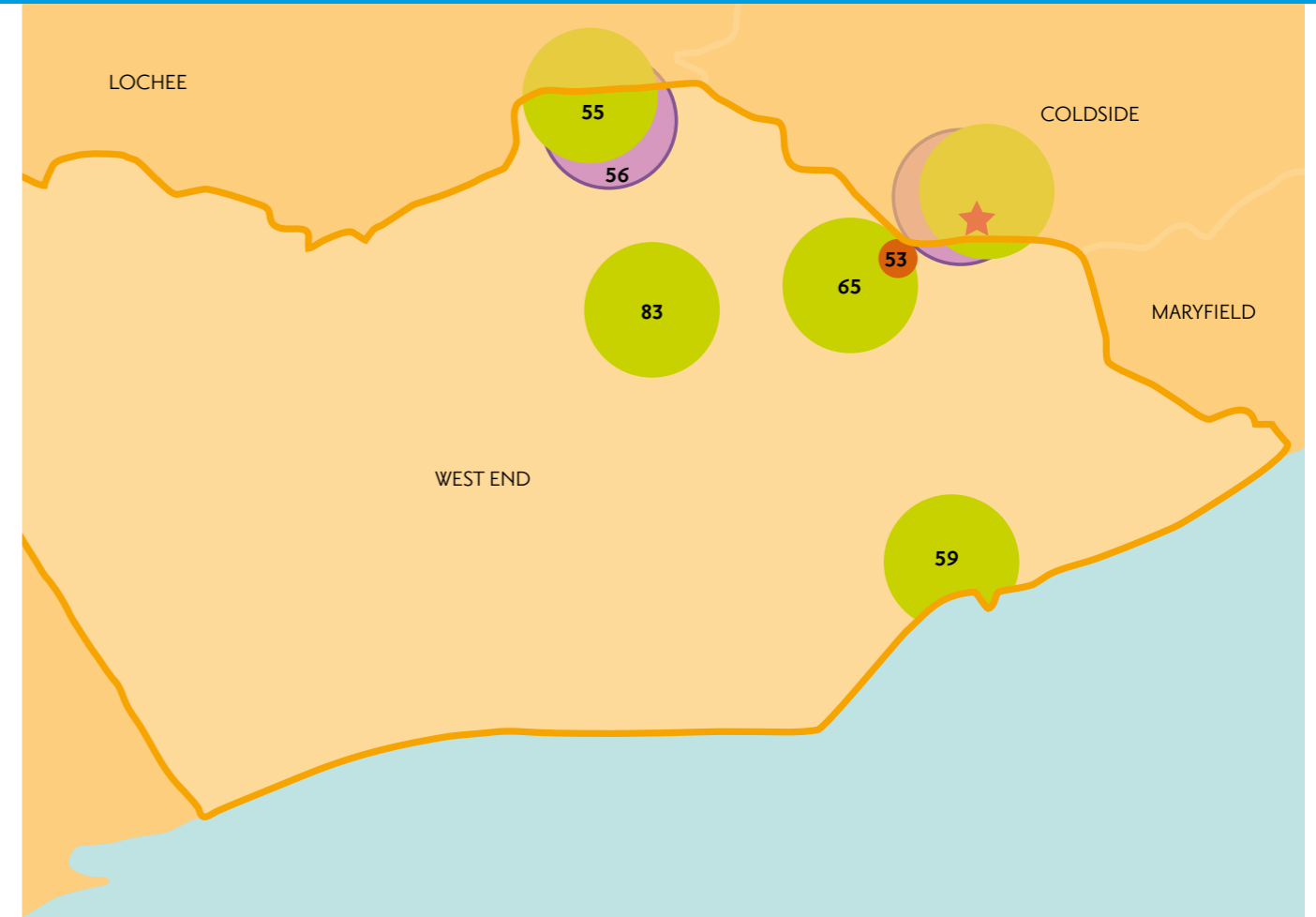
map H Equipped Play & Youth Areas - STRATHMARTINE WARD



Symbol	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
Orange square		LAP - Doorstep Play Area		
Green circle		LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play		
Blue circle		NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play		
Purple circle		Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities		
Red star		Destination Facility		
Circle with X		Removed Play Areas		
	2	Ardler Courtyards	Sanctuary Scotland Housing	Play Area
	7	Balgowan Avenue	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	12	Brackens - Kinneff Crescent	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	14	Camperdown Play Complex	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	19	Clatto Park 'Adventure'	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	20	Clatto Park 'Woodland'	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	27	Derwent Avenue	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	33	E Scotsraig Lane	DCC - DCS	Youth Shelter
	50	Kirkton	DCC - DCS	Youth Shelter
	51	Kirkton Central	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	74	Scotsraig Rd/Ardler	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	78	St Leonard Place	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	82	Turnberry Avenue Goal-end	DCC - DCS	Goal-end

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map I Equipped Play & Youth Areas - WEST END WARD



Symbol	ID No.	NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE
Orange square		LAP - Doorstep Play Area		
Green circle		LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play		
Blue circle		NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play		
Purple circle		Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities		
Red star		Destination Facility		
	53	Lawrence Street	Abertay Housing	Play Area
	55	Lochee Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	56	Lochee Park Basketball Hoop	DCC - L&C	Basketball Hoop
	59	Magdalen Green	DCC - L&C	Play Area
	65	Milnebank	DCC - DCS	Play Area
	83	Victoria Park	DCC - L&C	Play Area

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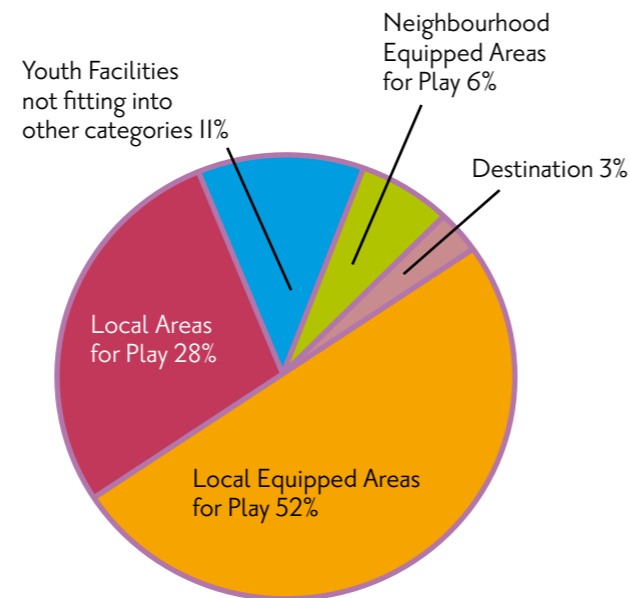
Appendix 4

Audit Key Results - Equipped Public Play Areas

Quantitative Assessment of Public Play Areas

Maps in Appendix 3 show the geographical distribution and classification of known public equipped play provision across Dundee, with notional catchment areas.

- There were 90 public equipped play and youth areas in Dundee in 2009, equating to an average of about 302 children and young people per facility in Dundee
- Play areas in parks should be designed to incorporate provision for a wider age range of children and young people
- There should be more local areas for play, designed to allow young children to identify the space as theirs and to indicate that play is positively encouraged



'Gaps' in Equipped Play Provision in Housing Areas

- Coldside - West side of Coldside around St Johns High School
- East End - Craigiebarns and most of Douglas, including Gotterstone and Kemnay
- Lochee - Central core between Dryburgh to Menzieshill
- Maryfield - City centre; west of Forfar Road in the northwest part of the ward
- North East - East Whitfield around Aberlady Crescent; Claverhouse; north of Berwick Drive and east of Ballumbie Road
- Strathmartine - Trottick, parts of Kirkton and central core between Downfield to Brackens and Clatto Moor
- The Ferry - Housing areas around Grove Academy and in west and east Balgillo
- West End - Large areas, but particularly west of Victoria Park

Local Expectations For Better Equipped Play

Local expectation for improvements in equipped play were identified as follows:

- Coldside - a fenced kick-about area
- East End - a BMX track, better play provision in Mid Craigie
- Lochee - new equipped play spaces in Menzieshill, Lochee and Charleston
- Maryfield - a string of connected, informal play spaces across the city centre
- North East - natural play (north Fintry), improve existing play areas (Whitfield)
- Strathmartine - new play area to replace removed sites (St Mary's), improve existing play areas and new, natural play area (Ardler), a skatepark/youth area (Kirkton); improve special needs play area (Camperdown Park)
- The Ferry - additional inclusive play equipment (Castle Green), refurbish Dawson Park play area, improve Orchar Park play space
- West End - reinstate play area (Blyth St/Fleuchar St), new play spaces (west side)

Often communities with local play areas wanted better provision. Other communities had no local play provision (sometimes due to removals) and wanted new/replacement provision, but had difficulties finding a site or one that could be agreed to by all parties. In other housing areas there was no known identified need.

Council Park Play Areas

Reference should be made to the table on page 117 showing the results of Council park play area audits assessing the accessibility, quality and play value of sites. Survey scores were converted into ratings of either gold, silver or bronze, with gold denoting the highest standard of provision.

The majority of Council park play areas were found to fall within the category of Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs). Of the remaining sites, 3 were categorised as Destination play areas and one was a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)*.

*based on categories of play areas detailed in Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play³⁵

All Council park play areas provided play experiences for early years and juniors, up to the age of 11 years. 80% of the parks surveyed catered for 'seniors' (12-15 years), and 40% of parks had suitable equipment, or a MUGA, skatepark, basketball hoops or youth shelter for 'senior+' (16-18 years).

Accessibility Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

50% of the 22 Council park play areas audited were rated silver standard for accessibility. Of the remaining sites, 6 were rated bronze, and 5 achieved a gold standard. To achieve gold standard, a play site had to be scored positively in at least two thirds of the set criteria.

Approximately 13% of Council park play areas made provision for inclusive seating. 9% of park play areas had designated disabled parking bays nearby in the street, or in park car parks. Around a quarter of park play areas had a safer crossing on the nearest main road, or were nearest to quiet residential streets where safer crossings may not be required.

Qualitative Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

The qualitative assessment is divided into two sections:

1. Play Value Assessment of Council Park Play Areas

Roughly half of the park play areas were silver or gold standard. It was noted that all bronze standard park play areas and over half of the silver or gold park play areas were enclosed by fencing.

2. Quality of the Site, Facilities Available and Condition

Over 65% of play areas were silver standard. Out of the remaining sites surveyed, just over half were bronze standard.

Location

All sites surveyed had an immediate outlook onto greenspace or parkland, and over 80% of sites were situated in a pleasant setting, well overlooked by buildings. Over four-fifths of park play areas were found to have a buffer distance of 20 metres or more from the nearest road, and nearly three-quarters had a buffer distance of 30 metres or more from housing.

Natural Environment

Over 60% of play areas had grass and over 20% of sites had trees within the boundaries. Generally the condition of trees and grass within play areas was good, where it existed. 55% of sites showed evidence of chemical weed control mainly at the boundaries of play areas, and in nearly all cases it had resulted in soil erosion.

Litter and Vandalism Management

There was no visible problem with strewn litter at any of the park play areas surveyed. Roughly half of the sites had one or more litter bins, and all of these had little or no litter. Hazardous waste (glass, needles and condoms) was not a problem. Only one site had some strewn glass fragments and rabbit droppings. Graffiti on seats, surfacing, furniture and/or equipment was recorded at over 60% of sites. Fire damage was evident at over 30% of sites, to timber and plastic equipment. Caird Park play area had been removed due to arson. Knife damage to equipment was noted at over 15% of sites.

Age and Condition of Equipment

Half of the park play areas had been refurbished with new equipment, under the previous improvement programme between the years 2000 and 2008. Of the sites that had not been refurbished the overall equipment condition was found to be poor in 40% of the sites, adequate in 50% of sites and good in 10% of sites. Of the refurbished sites the overall equipment condition was found to be adequate in 40% of sites and good in 60% of sites.

Paths and Safer Surfaces

Audit findings show over 10% of play areas surveyed had unsuitable or no safer surfacing under existing equipment and over 25% of sites had safer surfacing in poor condition.

Fencing

One-third of play areas had no fencing or gates; one-third had fencing and gates in good condition, and the remaining were found to be in adequate condition.

Lighting

The survey identified one play area with a lit approach path, although there were no lit play areas. Some MUGAS did have floodlighting.

Seating and Cycle Storage

The majority of play areas had no cycle parking or picnic tables for family or group visits. Roughly half of the sites had seating within the play area for adults and much less provision for children.

Information Signs

All park play areas had no “welcome to ... play area” signage or helpful park information. Most play areas had “no dogs” signage and many of these were in poor condition, poorly sited, negatively worded and contained out of date information.

Park Toilets

The majority of Dundee parks were found to have public toilets (17 of the 21 parks with play areas surveyed). The highest quality toilet provision was found in the refurbished Castle Green Pavilion and in the Lynch Sports Centre at South Road Park. Most park toilets were operated under set winter and summer opening times, however toilets available in Council-run sports centres adjacent to Claypotts Park and South Road Park, opened later in the day but stayed open for longer.

Notes for Results Table opposite:

Caird Park play area was removed prior to site surveys

¹ Age of play area and safety requirements puts this site in high priority for refurbishment (Dundee City Council responsibility)

² Age of play area and vandalism damage puts this site in high priority for refurbishment

Results Table of Council Park Play Area Surveys

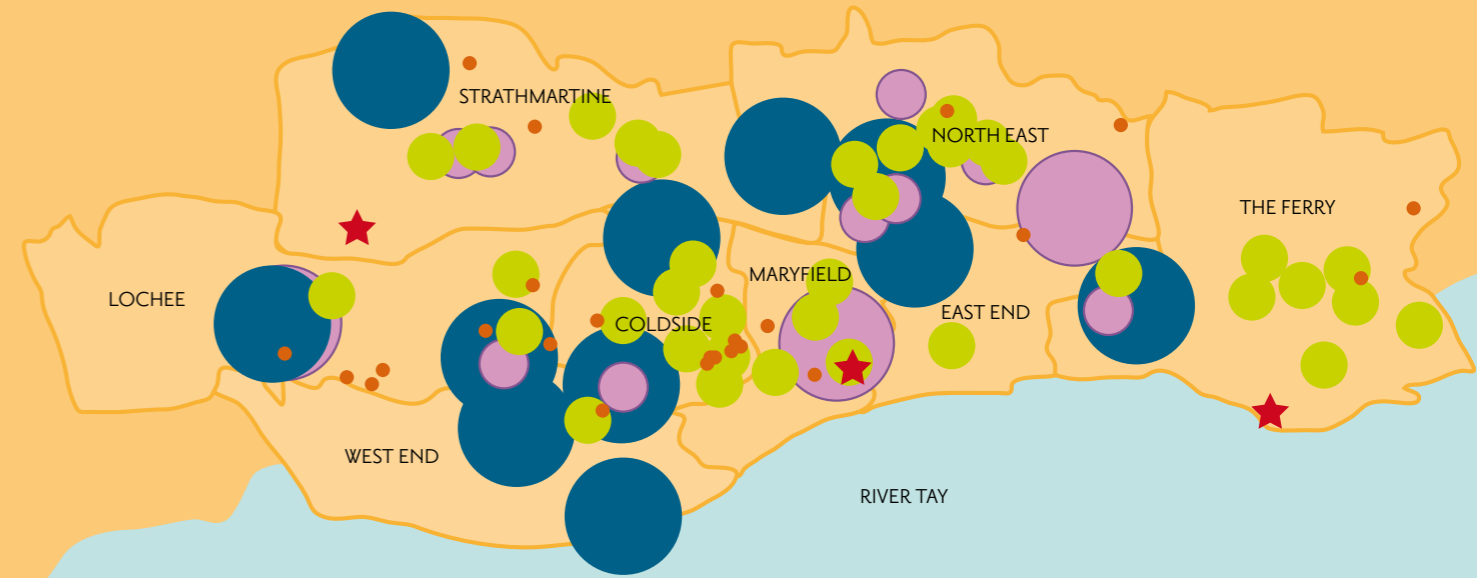
Audit scores for access, quality and play value assessments were converted into ratings of gold, silver or bronze, with gold denoting the highest standard of provision. Ratings were used to prioritise the list of refurbishments/improvements set out in the table of strategic targets.

Name/Location	Category	Quality	Access	Play value	Totals	Priority
Baxter Park Play Area	LEAP+	15	10	10	35	Low
Belmont Castle Estate Play Area, Meigle	LEAP	5	5	10	20	High ¹
Bridge Street Play Area	LEAP	10	10	5	25	Medium
Camperdown Park Play Area for children with disabilities	Destination	10	15	15	40	Low ²
Camperdown Park Play Area - toddler zone	Destination	10	10	10	30	Medium
Camperdown Park Play Area - junior zone	Destination	10	10	15	35	Low
Castle Green Play Area	Destination	15	15	15	45	Low
Clatto Country Park Woodland Play Area	LEAP+	5	5	10	20	High (removal)
Clatto Country Park Adventure Play Area	LEAP+	10	10	10	30	Medium
Claypotts Park Play Area	LEAP	10	10	5	25	Medium
Dawson Park Play Area	LEAP+	10	5	5	20	High
Dudhope Park Play Area (and MUGA, Destination Skatepark)	LEAP	10	5	5	20	High
Fairmuir Park Play Area	LEAP	10	10	5	25	Medium
Finlathen Park Play Area (and WSF)	LEAP	5	10	5	20	High
Gillies Park Play Area	LEAP	10	15	5	30	Medium
Lochee Park Play Area (and basketball hoop)	LEAP+	10	10	5	25	Medium
Magdalen Green Play Area	LEAP+	10	10	10	30	Medium
Mill O' Mains Park Play Area	NEAP <small>(small)</small>	10	15	5	30	Medium
Orchar Park Play Area	LEAP+	15	15	10	40	Low
South Road Park Play Area (and MUGA)	LEAP	5	5	5	15	High
Stobsmuir Park Play Area	LEAP+	10	10	10	30	Medium
Victoria Park Play Area	LEAP	10	5	5	20	High



Appendix 5

Map with Strategic Target Improvements



Equipped Play & Youth Areas with Strategic Target Improvements

- LAP - Doorstep Play Area
- LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play
- NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
- Other Local/Neighbourhood Youth Facilities
- ★ Destination Facility

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Appendix 6

Publications Currently Informing Our Work

This strategy makes extensive use of the publication 'Planning for Play - Guidance on the Development and Implementation of a Local Play Strategy', produced jointly by the National Children's Bureau and Big Lottery Fund, published March 2006.

This review also draws on other relevant reports, publications and findings, including:

1. DCMS (2004) Getting Serious About Play: a review of children's play. London: DCMS.
2. Professor R Mackett (2004) Making children's lives more active, London: University College London, Centre for Transport Studies.
3. I Cole-Hamilton and T Gill (2002) Making the case for play - building policies and strategies for school-aged children, London: National Children's Bureau.
4. Chief Medical Officer (2004) At Least Five a Week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health. London: DoH.
5. Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier. London: Department of Health, 2004
6. British Medical Journal, Vol. 322, February 2001.
7. S Collishaw, B Maughan, R Goodman and A Pickles (2004) Time Trends in Adolescent Mental Health, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 45.
8. Mental Health Foundation (1999) Bright Futures: promoting children and young people's mental health. London: Mental Health Foundation.
9. Thomas and Thompson, A Child's Place, Demos and the Green alliance (2004).
10. K Korpela, M Kitta and T Hartig (2002) Restorative experience, self regulation and children's place preferences. Journal of Environmental Psychology, 22, 387-398.
11. Play England, Big Lottery Fund (2008) Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide.
12. CABE Space (2004) Preventing Antisocial Behaviour in Public Places.
13. P Shelley (2002) Everybody Here? Play and leisure for disabled children and young people. Contact-a-Family.
14. A John and R Wheway (2004) Can Play Will Play: disabled children and access to outdoor playgrounds. London: NPFA.
15. H Kapasi (2001) Asian Children Play, Birmingham: PLAYTRAIN.
16. N Maan (2005) Delivery of Better Play Projects to Culturally Diverse Communities. London: Better Play/Barnardos.
17. UK Concluding Observations 2008 on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - Version for Children and Young People, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, NICCY, Children's Law Centre.
18. NEF (2001) Prove it: measuring impacts of renewal London: New Economics Foundation.
19. Emily Silverman, Ruth Lupton and Alex Fenton (2006) A good place for children? Attracting and retaining families in inner urban, mixed income communities, Chartered Institute of Housing.
20. What it's like to live there, CABE, 2005.
21. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN, 1990).
22. Scottish Planning Policy 2010.
23. National Planning Framework (2009).
24. Designing Places (2008), Designing Streets (2010).
25. PAN 77 Designing Safer Places.
26. The Disability Discrimination Acts of 1995 and 2005.
27. The Scotland Act 1998 (Section L2 of Part II of Schedule 5).
28. The Schools Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967.
29. 'Let's Make Scotland More Active' (Scottish Executive 2003).
30. Scottish Health Survey (1998) conducted on behalf of the Scottish Government and NHS Health Scotland.
31. Early Years Framework (2009), Scottish Government.
32. Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities (2008), Scottish Government.
33. Achieving our Potential - A Framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland (2008), Scottish Government.
34. Play Indicators Project: Draft Guidance for the Pilot Local Authorities, Children's Play Council and Play England (2007).
35. Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play, Fields in Trust, 2008.
36. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
37. BS EN:1176:2008: Playground equipment and surfacing: Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods.
38. BS EN:1176:2008: Playground equipment and surfacing: Part 7: Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.
39. BS EN:1177:2008: Impact attenuating playground surfacing - Determination of critical fall height.
40. BS 7188:1998+A2:2009: Impact absorbing playground surfacing - Performance requirements and test methods.
41. Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicators, Audit Commission (BVPI 115).
42. Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009-2012, Dundee Partnership, 2009.
43. Playday annual celebration of children's right to play: www.playday.org.uk

Appendix 7

Consultation

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy, including:

- Dundee Partnership Strategic Theme Groups: Building Stronger Communities, Partnership for the Environment, Community Safety, Integrated Children's Services, Health & Care
- Dundee City Council Departments: City Development, Dundee Contract Services, Leisure & Communities, Education, Corporate Planning, Housing, Social Work
- Local Housing Associations: Angus, Sanctuary and Abertay
- Tayside Police
- NHS Tayside
- Dundee Voluntary Action
- Play Scotland
- Sustrans
- Fields In Trust
- Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
- Dundee Play Forum
- Dundee Access Group
- Barnardo's
- Dundee Women's Aid
- Under 12's Project
- Grey Lodge Settlement
- The Inclusion Group
- Dundee International Women's Centre
- St Andrews Parish Church Family Support Project

Consultation with children and young people during November 2009:

- Online survey at Young Scot Dundee website - "Your views on Play Provision"
- Strategy feedback from: Youth Voice - Dundee members of Scotland's Youth Parliament; Young Carers Forum; Barnardo's; School Pupil Councils

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Published March 2011



DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP
Outdoor Play
& Youth Area
strategy 2009 - 2014

