Dear Sir/Madam,

The Cabinet Member for Arts and Leisure (Councillor I.K. Lloyd) is to consider the following report and make a decision on Thursday, 25th April, 2013 at 6.00 p.m. in Interview Room D, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN FRANKS
Managing Director

AGENDA

PART I
PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Yorkshire Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.
2. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION** - Members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct.

   Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

   Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

   Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

   Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

   Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council’s Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

4. **PLAY RANGER PROVISION FOR PLAY POLICY 2013** - report of the Children’s Play Officer attached. *(Page 3)*.
Agenda item: 4

Single Member Decision

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 25th April 2013

Subject: Play Ranger Provision for Play Policy 2013

Portfolio: Arts and Leisure (Councillor I.K. Lloyd)

From: Children’s Play Officer

Summary: To seek the approval of the Play Ranger Provision for Play Policy 2013

Recommendations That the Play Rangers Provision for Play policy be approved.

Reasons: To ensure that this policy serves as a benchmark for the Play Ranger service

Options: 1. Accept the recommendations

Subject to call-in: Yes

Forward plan: No

Corporate priorities: Aim 1 Supporting the Borough, Learning.
Aim 2 Safer Borough
Aim 3 Healthier Borough
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevant statutes or policy:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal Opportunity Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Inequalities Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal implications:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact details:**
Barry Woodier – Children’s Play Officer  
Tel. No.: (024) 7637 6016  
Barry.woodier@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk
AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Individual Cabinet Member Decision - 25th April 2013
From: Children’s Play Officer
Subject: Play Ranger Provision for Play Policy 2013
Portfolio: Arts and Leisure (Councillor I.K. Lloyd)

1. Purpose of Report
   To consider the adoption of the Play Ranger’s Provision for Play Policy 2013. (Appendix A)

2. Recommendations
   That the policy be adopted as a benchmark for the continuance of Children’s play within the boroughs of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

3. Background
   NBBC’s Play strategy 2005 – 2013 is now coming to an end and there is a need to outline the importance of work carried out by the Play Ranger service, and a requirement to adopt new working policy criteria for the service.

Barry Woodier
Children’s Play Officer
PLAY RANGER

PROVISION FOR PLAY POLICY 2013

BARRY WOODIER
CHILDREN’S PLAY OFFICER

April 2013
Introduction

The Play Ranger project has been running since July 2007 following a successful bid to the National lottery for £282,000. Initial recruitment problems meant that the service did not get fully underway until January 2008, although some sessions had been held since October 2007.

The aim of the bid was to support the Council’s seven Play Objectives, outlined in NBBC Play Strategy 2005 - 2013

- By extending the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
- Recognising the child’s need to test boundaries and respond positively to that need.
- Managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- Maximise the variety of play opportunities.
- Fostering independence and self-esteem.
- Fostering children’s respect for others, and offers opportunities for social interaction.
- Fostering the child’s wellbeing, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity for learning.

After a period of settling in the project was quickly on target of delivering 60 hours of supervised Play provision per week. Regular sessions were held and the project exceeded estimated targets of attendance figures in its first year.

In year 2 the project was well established and the team had been extended to include another Play Ranger after careful budget consideration. This enabled the team to deliver far in excess of its predicted hours and subsequently this again resulted in again attaining far more attendances than expected.

In Consideration to the success of the project in year 3 NBBC added a further £40,000 to the project for it to be extended to cover main sessions in Riversley Park, and Miners Welfare Park during school holidays. This turned out to be a great success and attracted many children and young people to its additional sessions, to achieve this 4 additional staff was employed to cover the specific school holidays.

On completion of the Big Lottery Funds 3 year project, a paper was submitted for the Play Rangers to be fully adopted and Funded by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. At this time the service saw a re-evaluation, and streamlining of the provision.

Year 4 saw the re-introduction of the councils run play scheme and was re-branded as the ‘Breakaway Club’ this was a much more ‘structured’
provision of Play. Participants paid a nominal fee to attend, this revenue offset outside providers who delivered entertainment, during the scheme. The club was open to all, and was a locked down service. All Children and young people were locked into the venue irrespective of their age, and are collected by carers at the end of the session. This service has offered an alternative Play source throughout the summer for parents / carers wishing to make sure their child are secure and safe.

The Breakaway club scheme was highly successful and attracted a number of users across the borough. Funding had been identified for 2012

2011 also saw an increase in our after school sessions from 2 to 4 parks per day which resulted in a growth of 67% in its attendance figures with the Play Ranger service, this bringing its total attendances to over 60,000 attendees since the service was formed.

2012 Has continued to see growth of the Play Ranger service by 20.3%, and once again the agreement and funding of the Breakaway Club.

To date the Play Ranger and Breakaway service has engaged 89,156 children and young people in the borough’s parks and open spaces during its service history.

As we start 2013 The Play Rangers have celebrated their 5th birthday with a play day held in the car park of town hall. This is a celebration of the success of the service to date, and is expected to attract a large attendance.

Current provision

STAFF

Children’s Play Officer
Volunteer co-ordinator / Play Ranger
5 x Play Rangers
4 x Casual Play Rangers

Supplying 4 after school sessions per day during months February - October, and 1 session per day November - February.

During school holidays supplying 5 hours per day at destination parks.

Assisting in consultation in regards of new / refurbishment of playgrounds. Visiting schools delivering play sessions during lunch and playtime sessions.

Working with in house and external groups, supporting and educating play.

The play Ranger service currently supports many of the councils corporate plans including:-
**Stronger Borough (Supporting Communities)**
- Play Rangers actively encourage children and young people from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to participate equally in play activities together. Thus cultivating respect for one another and creating harmonious community interaction.
- Through consultation, Play Rangers offer the opportunity for children and young people to contribute directly to their environment through the redevelopment of their local parks.

**Stronger Borough (Learning)**
- Play Rangers activities support children’s education, utilising skills such as numeracy, literacy and colour-recognition through play. Activities take into account the national Key Stage requirements for each age group, providing age-appropriate games and challenges to progress their learning.

**Safer Borough**
- The presence of Play Rangers within parks and open spaces discourages anti-social behaviour and improper use of park equipment, by providing alternative and positive activities.
- Play Rangers unite children and young people to socially interact with one another, build respect within communities and discouraging anti-social behaviour by inspiring ownership of the parks through consultation.

**Healthier Borough**
- Play Rangers actively encourage children to lead a healthier lifestyle, including frequent physical activity, which helps to tackle childhood obesity.
- Play Rangers discuss health issues in an age-appropriate way for children and young people, helping play to become a pathway to knowledge.
- Play Rangers aim to inspire parents to incorporate healthy living in their home life, supporting children’s positive eating and exercise (play) habits. An important aspect of this is encouraging parents to bring their children to enjoy the parks and open spaces during times when Play Rangers are not attending - this not only gives children and parents an opportunity to play, exercise and take in fresh air together, but also encourages family bonding.

**Sustainable Borough (Environment)**
- Play Rangers help raise the awareness of environmental issues by encouraging children to bin rubbish and therefore, increasing their sense of pride and ownership of the park.
- Regular “Scavenger Hunt” activities get children involved in cleaning up the park in a safe and fun way, which produces a sense of pride and achievement.
- Play Rangers encourage children to recycle materials wherever possible and demonstrate sustainable ways to reuse items during play sessions.
- Play Rangers discuss environmental issues in an age-appropriate way for children and young people, helping play to become a pathway to knowledge.
Sustainable Borough (Travel and Accessibility)

- Play Rangers support school schemes, which encourage children to walk or cycle from place to place. Many attendees walk or cycle to Play Ranger sessions.

**BENEFITS**

- Link to external partners
  
  *Works closely with recognised play champions, keeping up to date legislation, working co-partnership, friends of groups, schools and colleges.*

- Grant and potential funding
  
  *Seeking all funding opportunities regarding play. Looking to diverse / adapt the service to attract funding opportunities.*

- Diverse range of activities
  
  *Offering a variety of different stimulating play sessions, with an emphasis of healthy living, and physiological well being*

- Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour
  
  *Tackling young peoples behaviour.*

- Link to healthy living agenda
  
  *Promoting a healthy lifestyle, this tackles childhood obesity.*

- Promote self-esteem
  
  *Encourages a feel good attitude to users, and boosting their confidence.*

- Emphasising sense of community and ownership of the space
  
  *Working with user groups in open spaces to provide an ownership and maintenance of parks, this in turn prevents anti social behaviour of these area’s.*

- Encouraging the use of parks and open spaces
  
  *Making use of the councils land and investments, utilizing play equipment which encourages self policing*

- Reassuring presence for local park users
  
  *By having Play Rangers present in parks and open spaces, this provides a policing of the area that decreases anti social behaviour, and gives younger children a feeling of supervision and protection.*

- Offers life changing situations for Children and Young people in Super Output area’s by offering stimulating activities and field trips at no charge.
  
  *These field trips are very popular and are looked forward to by participants and parents alike, providing an air of childhood excitement that cannot be provided by their families who are often receiving benefit. Research shows*
that over 60% of attendees of the play ranger service come from within the top 10% of the most socially deprived area’s of the borough. Therefore it is the intention to continue to provide these within the budget of the service.

Work undertaken by the Play Ranger service underpins the recognized values of play

Further examples of best practice can be found in ‘Best Play’ policies

There are seven play objectives found in the ‘best play’ these are

- **Objective 1** The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they get from it

  *The play ranger service offers a variety of different and stimulating play opportunities; they are customized to suit age groups, and surroundings.*

- **Objective 2** The provision recognizes the child’s needs to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.

  *The Play Ranger service constantly challenges boundaries, and balances risk vs play.*

- **Objective 3** The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children from harm

  *Risk should not automatically mean harm, and the play Rangers keep a balance of the 2 concepts, providing children with the skills to identify risk through play, and the challenges of growing up.*

- **Objective 4** The provision maximises the range of play opportunities.

  *Play Rangers offer stimulating, physical, and challenging play possibilities.*

- **Objective 5** The provision fosters independence and self-esteem

  *By allowing children and young people the right to play. And providing encouragement when met with challenging situations the Play Ranger service allows young people to enhance their self-respect, and independence.*

- **Objective 6** The provision fosters children’s respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.

  *By encouraging a community of play the Play Ranger service actively offers a diverse array of multi cultural play opportunities.*

- **Objective 7** The provision fosters the child’s well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn

  *The Play Ranger service actively sponsors the development of play within children and young people, providing the knowledge, and encouragement to individuals so that play enriches children’s health, and development.*
Every Child matters

The Children and Young people’s plan is the basis for how councils are monitored for joint area reviews these include:-

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Positive contribution
- Enjoy and achieve
- Economic wellbeing

It is generally felt that our own corporate plan echoes these requirements, and that the Play Ranger service offers much input to their areas.

2012 Provision

The Play Ranger service has embarked on its 2012 delivery, and arrangements have been made for after school delivery and non term time holidays. Again this will include a multitude of different activities such as arts, crafts, sports and games.

The delivery sites have now been identified for Play provision for the year; this includes the introduction of new sites, that includes area’s not previously served by the service.

It has been important to keep the Play Ranger brand ‘fresh’ 2012 being the year of the Olympics and Jubilee, great emphasis will be placed to maintain an interest in these events.

The Breakaway Club has again been delivered during 2012. indications show that the scheme was a success, and results from a customer satisfaction survey are being compiled.

CONSIDERATIONS

Whilst the Play Ranger service was initially implemented to support and encourage users to parks and open spaces, it would appear that the agenda of these requirements are in a different order from those of its onset.

Healthy living, tackling child obesity, and working with communities, now play a much bigger part in the day to day objectives of the service, other than encouraging people to use parks and open spaces. Whilst we would still offer a much required service to children and young people in the
borough there is scope for the service to extend its professional applications, and steer it towards the objectives listed above.

There is consideration that any space be it a large park or simply a small patch of land can be used as a working area for the Play Ranger service, rather than the specific requirements that all delivery must be in parks. The Play Ranger team can be diverse to tackle specific requirements for the needs of that area.

Therefore the Play Rangers will continue to work with health authorities, and external 3rd parties so that they can deliver such physical requirements that tackle children's health, but under a banner of play, which provides fun.

The Play Ranger work carried out in partnership with the Civic Hall in Bedworth and the community football foundation and the Breakaway Club during the summer of 2011 and 2012 has been found to be rewarding, and fruitful, and a perfect example of how close partnership working can benefit all concerned.

**The future**

The Play Ranger service will continue to strive and promote ‘play’ for the council, it will look to expand wherever possible so that the benefits can be more available for children and young people. It will also continue to actively engage with youngsters so that the corporate objectives can be maintained.

The Play Ranger service will also continue to engage with children and young people from social deprived area’s, and offer life changing experiences.
The open space strategy confirms the importance of the Play Ranger service extracts from this paper:

Appendix 1

(Selected extracts from the Open Space Strategy)

The value and benefits of play have long being established; outdoor play has developmental and therapeutic benefits for children and young people, can be a tool to learning, helps develop an awareness of risk and danger and is important for building social, emotional and life skills. Access to these facilities can also help children and young people to stay healthy and tackle problems of obesity by providing opportunities for exercising and fresh air. In addition, these areas play a vital role in providing space where children and young people can meet and interact with others, to learn invaluable social skills away from their home environment and to establish a world for themselves independent of their parents.

This has been further supplemented by the three year Big Lottery funded Play Ranger project which plays an important role in promoting an active, healthy lifestyle for children and young people. Fun and dynamic activities help to combat obesity, by inspiring children to participate in stimulating and physically challenging activities – both during the sessions and during their own time. The Play Rangers also play an important role in educating parents and carer’s on the importance of their encouragement and support of healthy living.

Formal leisure facility provision for children and young people in the Borough includes play areas, multi-use games areas (MUGAs - containing facilities for basketball, football land cricket), skateboard parks, teenage shelters and informal kick-about areas. Informal play is equally important and children use all kinds of open spaces, in addition to formally equipped play areas, for their games and social interaction and the Big Lottery funded Play Rangers form an integral part of encouraging children to use their open spaces in an appropriate way.

The work of the play rangers has become an integral part not only in how children and young people play but also in how they interact with their surroundings and peers. Their actions can be directly related to the corporate initiatives relating to, Health, the Environment and Public Safety and have become a successful link in the delivery of the playground refurbishment programme. Their roles can be further defined to include:

- By extending the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
- Recognising the child’s need to test boundaries and respond positively to that.
- Managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
• Extolling the virtues of open spaces, proper behaviour and proper use of facilities.
• Maximise the variety of play opportunities.
• Fostering independence and self-esteem.
• Fostering children’s respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction
• Fostering a sense of ownership and pride of the open spaces in which the children play.
• Fostering the child’s wellbeing, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity for learning.

Although parks are well regarded by the majority of residents there is no doubt that they could and should be utilized far more in order to achieve the goals outlined within the Community Plan. The existing contributions parks make, via the investment in children’s play and play rangers, opportunities for sport, informal recreation are well recognized. However, as we confront what is considered one of the most serious problems facing people today, the physical and mental well being of our residents, it is clear that parks and open spaces must be more accessible

Acknowledgements

Every Child Matters (ECM) is a UK government initiative for England and Wales, that was launched in 2003, at least partly in response to the death of Victoria Climbié. It is one of the most important policy initiative and development programmes in relation to children and children's services of the last decade, and has been described as a "sea change" to the children and families agenda.

It has been the title of three government papers, leading to the Children Act 2004. Every Child Matters covers children and young adults up to the age of 19, or 24 for those with disabilities.

Its main aims are for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

• Be healthy
• Stay safe
• Enjoy and achieve
• Make a positive contribution
• Achieve economic well-being

Each of these themes has a detailed framework attached whose outcomes require multi-agency partnerships working together to achieve. The agencies in partnership may include children's centre’s, early years, schools, children's social work services, primary and secondary health services, play work, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS). In the past it has been argued that
children and families have received poorer services because of the failure of professionals to understand each other's roles or to work together effectively in a multi-disciplinary manner. ECM seeks to change this, stressing that it is important that all professionals working with children are aware of the contribution that could be made by their own and each others' service and to plan and deliver their work with children and young people accordingly.\[2\]

A helpful acronym to remember the 5 parts is SHEEP - Every child shall be: Safe, Healthy, Enjoy/Achieve, Economic, Positive contribution.

It is the central goal of Every Child Matters to ensure every pupil is given the chance to be able to work towards the goals referenced within it. Most of the legislation passed and guidance applies to England and Wales and all maintained schools have implemented the policy; it has also been influential in the rest of the UK and in some independent schools. The similar model Getting it Right for Every Child - GIRFEC is the equivalent approach in Scotland.

Since the formation of the Coalition Government in 2010 there has been some movement away from the terminology, and the funding for, Every Child Matters - how far the principles and structures of ECM will continue is as yet unclear.

http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/202623/best-play.pdf
# PLAY RANGER ATTENDANCE FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008 Attendances</th>
<th>2009 Attendances</th>
<th>2010 Attendances</th>
<th>2011 Attendances</th>
<th>2012 Attendances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>3584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>1253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>2121</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>1256</td>
<td>1793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>1097</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>1741</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>1358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>1517</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>2164</td>
<td>1433</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>2778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>5075</td>
<td>7044</td>
<td>6760</td>
<td>8192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>1076</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>1053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>1542</td>
<td>1387</td>
<td>1058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>3788</td>
<td>3793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>2362</td>
<td>2439</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6504</td>
<td>14044</td>
<td>15800</td>
<td>23371</td>
<td>29380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>