

Information Paper on a Play and Leisure Implementation Plan for Northern Ireland

Background

Following the publication of the Play and Leisure Policy for Northern Ireland earlier this year, the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has established an Implementation Group to take forward the development of age-appropriate implementation plans.

The group comprising a wide range of stakeholders is multi-agency in composition and PlayBoard has been retained to provide technical expertise to the group. NICMA are represented on the group. The group has been tasked with producing two implementation plans – one for the 0-11 age group and one for the 12-18 age group. To do this, the group has divided into the following three sub-groups: 0-11; 12-18 and Cross Cutting issues.

As a driver for 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge' the ten-year strategy for children and young people, the implementation plan will be underpinned by the following principles:

- **Participation**
- **Accessibility**
- **Affordability**
- **Flexibility**
- **Diversity**
- **Integration**
- **Inclusion**
- **Quality**



Q. What is play and leisure?

A. The groups have jointly agreed the following working definition to help them in their work.

- The right to play and leisure is an intrinsic entitlement of childhood (Article 31, UNCRC). Play is a natural and universal drive in childhood. It is an essential element and contributory factor to supporting children's physical and emotional well-being, growth, learning and development. Play can support children's creativity and cultural awareness. Play can be structured, non-structured, formal and non-formal. Through play children explore the world around them and learn to take responsibility for their own choices.

The Time Frame

Draft plans will be ready for sharing and informal consultation work later in autumn 2009. PlayBoard's Conference *'Time for Play'* to be held on 21st and 22nd of October 2009 in the Armagh City Hotel will also be used as a consultative forum.



A full public consultation will take place early next year following approval of the implementation plans by the Executive.

Your Views Matter

Your view is important, you can shape the process. We need to hear from you. What do you think should be included in a plan for play and leisure?

If you want to find out more you can contact us directly:

1. cypu@ofmdfmni.gov.uk t: 02890 523128 ; or

You can talk to the staff at PlayBoard who are helping us with this work.

2. Lisa O'Connor at PlayBoard on lisa.oconnor@playboard.co.uk

Keeping in touch

You can keep in touch with the work by visiting the following websites: **PlayBoard** www.playboard.org **Children and Young People's Unit** – www.allchildrenni.gov.uk



Play and Leisure Policy for Northern Ireland

Your Right to Play in Northern Ireland



Play can take place in parks, play centres and schools, in housing estates or green spaces, in community centres, in sports centres and in your own home.

What is a Play and Leisure Policy?

A policy is a plan - a way to make things happen.

The Government know how important play is for children and young people and that is why we are working on a Play and Leisure Policy for Northern Ireland. We want children and young people to have lots of interesting and safe places to go to and spaces to play and relax in.

What's been happening so far?

In 2006 we asked children and adults what were the most important things for them about play.

You told us:

- Need for spaces that provide a wide variety of ways and places to play
- Children and young people of all ages being involved
- Dealing with real issues in communities for Children and young people
- Feeling safe – to be able to play near their homes
- Available and affordable ways to play and hang out
- Choices that provide fun and exciting places to play
- Need for adults who work with Children and young people and parents to understand play
- Money and funding is needed to support play
- Children and young people need to be involved in campaigning and planning for play



What's happening now?

We listened to what you said and this has helped us start to write plans about play and leisure. The government has brought together a group of adults who work with children and young people to make these plans.

The plans will set out the things that need to happen so you will have more



opportunities to play. In the Autumn, these plans will be ready and we will share these with you. We will want to know what you think of them and to let us know if we have left anything out.

One way you will be able to do this is by filling in a questionnaire. We are working with web designers on a questionnaire and we will let you know when this is ready. We will put this on our [website](#) so you can fill it in and send it to us.

Keeping in touch

You can find out more information about the Play and Leisure Policy on the following websites:

Children and Young People's Unit –
www.allchildrenni.gov.uk

Or PlayBoard –
<http://www.playboard.org/policy.html>



If you want to ask questions or find out more about what we are doing then you can talk to Nicola or Brenda in the Children and Young People's Unit on 02890 523128.

You can also talk to the staff at PlayBoard who are helping us with this work: Lisa O'Connor on lisa.oconnor@playboard.co.uk or telephone : 028 (90) 803380