

Oxfordshire Play Partnership (OPP)

Minutes of meeting held on 22.9.09 at Carterton FC Pavilion

Present:

Assia Bibi	AB	Sunrise Multicultural Project
Alison Partridge	AP	OCC (Strategic Lead for Participation and Play) (Joint Chair)
Gavin Barber	GB	Oxfordshire Family Information Service (OFIS)
Ginette Wilson	GW	Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) (Childcare Development)
Howie Watkins	HW	OCC (Playbuilder Development Officer)
Jane Gallagher	JG	OPA (Play Devt Officer)
Jeremy Spafford	JS	Consultant
Kayte Locke	KL	Oxfordshire PCT
Kamlesh Sharman	KS	OCC
Katy Weston	KW	Let's Play, Banbury
Martin Gillett	MG	Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) (Joint Chair)
Martin Holland	MH	WODC (Leisure Devt Manager)
Meryl Smith	MS	OPFA - Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association
Roger Beattie	RB	OALC - Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
Sophie Cresswell	SC	OCC (Play Devt Officer)
Tara Nielsen	TN	WODC - West Oxfordshire District Council
Tym Soper	TS	Oxfordshire Playbus

Apologies:

Lynette Robertson	Play England
David Scott-Batey	OCC (Extended Schools)
Anna Thorne	Donnington Doorstep Family Centre, Oxford
Roger Davis	OPFA
Paul Lawrence	OAYP
Jon Wild	Cherwell DC
Philip Rolls	Cherwell DC

1. Previous minutes and matters arising:

- 1.1 **ACTION:** HW and GB to meet up re Local View.
- 1.2 JG, GW, SC and MG to meet up to discuss Inspiring Play before next meeting.

2. Welcomes

- 2.1 MG welcomed GW and SC as new members of the OPP.
- 2.2 Congratulations were given to KW who won 4Children's Playworker of the Year award.

3. Updates

- 3.1 AP: Pleased to be joint-chairing the meeting with MG from OPA, which sends out a strong message about partnership working.
- 3.2 AB: Have received funding from OCC Play Delivery grant to run two of their Saturday clubs; receiving news this week about Lottery funding to run the other 2 clubs - if no funding received, those clubs will have to close.
- 3.3 MH:
 - New play area at Kilkenny Park being opened that very day, funded by OCC and Lottery
 - RAF have money to develop children and young people's play.

- 3.4 GW: Has remit for play and play training within OCC Childcare Development.
- 3.5 KW: Funding is a huge issue at the moment; Let's Play's existence is unsure after December 2009.
- 3.6 GB:
 - OFIS have moved to County Hall in Oxford.
 - Hoping to find funds for producing information for Dads.
 - OFIS have copies available of the free booklet 'You and Your Child' (for families with disabled children and young people) - contact OFIS if you want copies.
- 3.7 TS:
 - Oxfordshire Playbus will be 30 years old on 17.12.09.
 - Playbus is facing some cuts to working with the Rural Children's Centres.
- 3.8 KL: Works for Oxfordshire PCT Public Health Department. Attending this meeting as there are links re tackling obesity and mental health problems.
- 3.9 SC: New Play Development Officer for OCC. Will be monitoring the play contracts.
- 3.10 MG:
 - OPA are updating their Training Programme to include the Transitional Award (between early years and playwork) and the CACHE Level 2 playwork qualification.
 - New OPA information and Play Box catalogue are helping to raise the profile of OPA.

4. Aiming High and 'Celebrating Inclusion Awards'

- 4.1 Decided not to organise a 'Play Awards' due to point 4.2.
- 4.2 Aiming High have launched the 'Celebrating Inclusion Awards'. Nominations invited for 12 categories, including 'Playworker of the Year' and 'Out of School Childcare Club of the Year'. Closing date 16.10.09. More info on their website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh
- 4.3 Funding available: Aiming High Capital Grant for Short Breaks. Deadline 24.9.09. AP reported that disabled C&YP are involved in the decision-making panel.

5. Play Policy Endorsement

- 5.1 JS suggested that it would be useful to know how many councils have endorsed the Oxfordshire Play Policy. **ACTION**: RB to report at next meeting.

6. Play Strategy Action Plan

- 6.1 Updates were given on each point of the Action Plan. **ACTION**: AP and SC to update the Action Plan and circulate.

Some points that were brought up during the discussion:

- Play Design Grant: HW reported that a Play Design Grant is now available. Up to £2000 for professional design of play areas.
- Funding for Training & Qualifications: MS: OCC have changed the way they fund training and qualifications - funding is now paid first to the play setting rather than to the training provider. This results in the training providers having a shortage of funds whilst they chase the settings for payment. **ACTION**: GW to follow up with Elaine McCurdy.

- Workforce Survey: GW reported that a meeting had taken place to look at ways to increase the number of qualified playworkers. Ideas include training playworkers in post, working with sixth formers and Apprenticeships. **ACTION**: AP and GW to follow up the idea of Playwork Apprenticeships.
- Workforce Development: **ACTION**: GW, SC and JG to meet and explore before next meeting.
- Play & Health: HW and KL have organised a meeting to look into joint working between play and health, as part of the Healthy Living Initiative. Meeting is on 29.9.09 at Oxon PCT, Jubilee House. Contact KL if you wish to attend.
- C&YP Survey: AP: results now published. One of the positive results is that C&YP say they feel safer in their communities. The report has many useful findings and evidence around play - copies available from AP at alison.partridge@oxfordshire.gov.uk AP is meeting the OCC Head of Communications next week to discuss.
- Road Safety
 - JS reported that a 20mph speed limit is now in place in all of Oxford's minor roads, which is positive for children in those communities.
 - JS reported that a 'Walking Map' of East Oxford has been produced by Oxfordshire Outside, who are looking to create more.
 - KL suggested that pavements and cycle lanes be gritted to increase their use on wintry days. **ACTION**: JS to take forward.
- Oxford City Partnership - JS reported that Oxford City Partnership are producing a Public Realm action plan, which includes some parts about play.
- ChYPIN - AP has reports about the very successful ChYPIN (C&YP's Involvement Network) day in June - C&YP people's views about being outside. Available from AP as above.
- Play Strategy and Play Policy - endorsed by the Children and Young People's Trust, and by some District Councils.
- Children and Young People's Plan - we must try to ensure that play is in the C&YP Plan, as that will affect future funding for play.
- OFIS work on play is in progress.

7. Playday 2009 and 2010

- 7.1 JG presented a report about Playday 2009. 46 events ran across the county, with 1000s of children and young people and their families and carers playing. Thanks were given to JG and the Playday steering group for their work on Playday.
- 7.2 Playday 2010 - JG reported that the steering group have decided to have a week of events across the county for National Playday next year - a 'playweek' rather than one day. Each of the five districts would be approached to form a steering group and organise an event. At least one member of the existing steering group would work with the district groups.

Oxford City - **ACTION**: GB to contact potential members for a city Playday steering group.

Cherwell - **ACTION**: JG to contact Jon Wild and Philip Rolls.

Vale - **ACTION**: MG to contact potential members.

South - **ACTION**: RB to contact potential members.

West - **ACTION**: MH and TN to contact potential members.

- 7.3 AP suggested linking in with Extended Schools Coordinators and Dev Officers (ESCOs and ESDOs)
- 7.4 KS requested that districts are able to choose their own day rather than being assigned one.
- 7.5 KL suggested linking in with Play4Life campaign.

- 8. Inspiring Play newsletter**
- 8.1 **ACTION:** GW, JG, SC and MG to meet to discuss OPA/IP newsletters.

- 9. Play Training in Schools**
- 9.1 Item deferred to next meeting

- 10. OCC Play Tenders 2009-11**
- 10.1 Group agreed that existing OCC tender procedures were too onerous for many small play organisations. OCC are reviewing these procedures.

- 11. Future Funding for Play post-2011**
- 11.1 Agreed that OPP needs to do all it can to highlight play and its benefits. Need to produce *evidence* of how play contributes to the C&YP Plan, and how play meets Every Child Matters outcomes.
- 11.2 SC is collecting evidence with regard to the above - please send SC any qualitative and quantitative evidence (words/pics) to sophie.cresswell@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- ACTION:** All.
- 11.3 GB suggested that a focus is placed on the 'invest to save' message - that investment in play can save money on areas such as health.

- 12. Extended Services**
- 12.1 AP passed on information from David Scott-Batey (OCC Extended Schools Services Manager): Go4it! Funding is available through schools for 'vulnerable families' - Information is available from the ESCOs (list emailed along with these minutes).

- 13. AOB**
- 13.1 MS - OPFA AGM is on 21.10.09 at 7.30 at Islip Village Hall,
- 13.2 KL - Change4Life website is a good source of information, updates, resources and has an area for us to promote what is happening locally.
- 13.3 JG - Deadline for the next round of Play Pot applications is 15th October. Please promote to groups who may be interested. Forms from (and return to): sophie.cresswell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
Wednesday 16th December 2009, 10.00 - 12.00 at Watlington Sports Pavilion.