



SUFFOLK COASTAL

A STRATEGY FOR PLAY 2007-2012

“Free time – My time”



Endorsed by Cabinet 04.09.07

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FOREWORD

Many of us when we look back to our childhood have golden memories of when the sun always seemed to shine, and we had the freedom to roam across fields and beaches with our friends, letting our imagination run free, acting out our childhood fantasies without fear or hindrance.

Today, in the fast moving society of which we are all part, modern living has thrown up a wide range of barriers to children's play; more traffic, less open space, real and perceived dangers from crime, changes in family life and new patterns of work have all conspired to deny more and more children the freedom to play. The resulting increase in sedentary life styles has at least partly contributed to increases in anti-social behaviour, mental health problems and childhood obesity and the related health problems that this brings in later life.

So it is now more important than ever that the value of play, in all its forms, is recognised not only for what it can add to children's welfare and development but also for the benefits that it can bring to society as a whole.

Suffolk Coastal is proud to lead on the development and implementation of this Strategy which not only recognises the value of play and the role it plays in our society, but also identifies how we can work with our partners to ensure that play is considered in future developments and the level and standard of play provision across the district continues to grow and develop to enable our children and their children to have the same golden memories that we have.

Councillor Kevin Keable
Portfolio Holder
Community Wellbeing

Councillor Mrs Doreen Savage
Portfolio Holder
Young People

DEFINITIONS

Play¹

Play means what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons

“From the beginning of history, children have played. They have played alone or with other people sometimes with adults more often with other children. Through play the serious ‘work of childhood’ occurs” (2)

“The importance and value of play cannot be emphasised too strongly. It is an essential part of any child’s life and education, and helps to lay the foundations for learning experiences” (3)

Play Provision

A space, some facilities or equipment or a set of activities intended to give children the opportunity to play as defined above. At its most successful, it offers children and young people as much choice, control and freedom as possible within reasonable boundaries. This is often best achieved with adult support, guidance or supervision. The children and young people may themselves choose play involving certain rules or, in some cases, informal sport.

1 Throughout this document the word “Play” has the meaning “Play and free time activities” any reference to “children” shall have the meaning “children and young people”

2 Barnes D.R (1998) cited in Play from Birth to Twelve and Beyond.

3 Honeyman L (1994) Paediatric Nursing volume 6 no 3

INTRODUCTION

From an early age, play is important to a child's development and learning. It can involve cognitive, imaginative, creative, emotional and social aspects

This Strategy has been written to provide a cohesive approach to the delivery of a service that will:

- Enable children and young people to become healthy and active - active children are more likely to become active adults
- Promote social inclusion as play helps children learn about their environment and develops a sense of community
- Promote children's development, learning, independence and creativity
- Let children expend energy and have fun!!

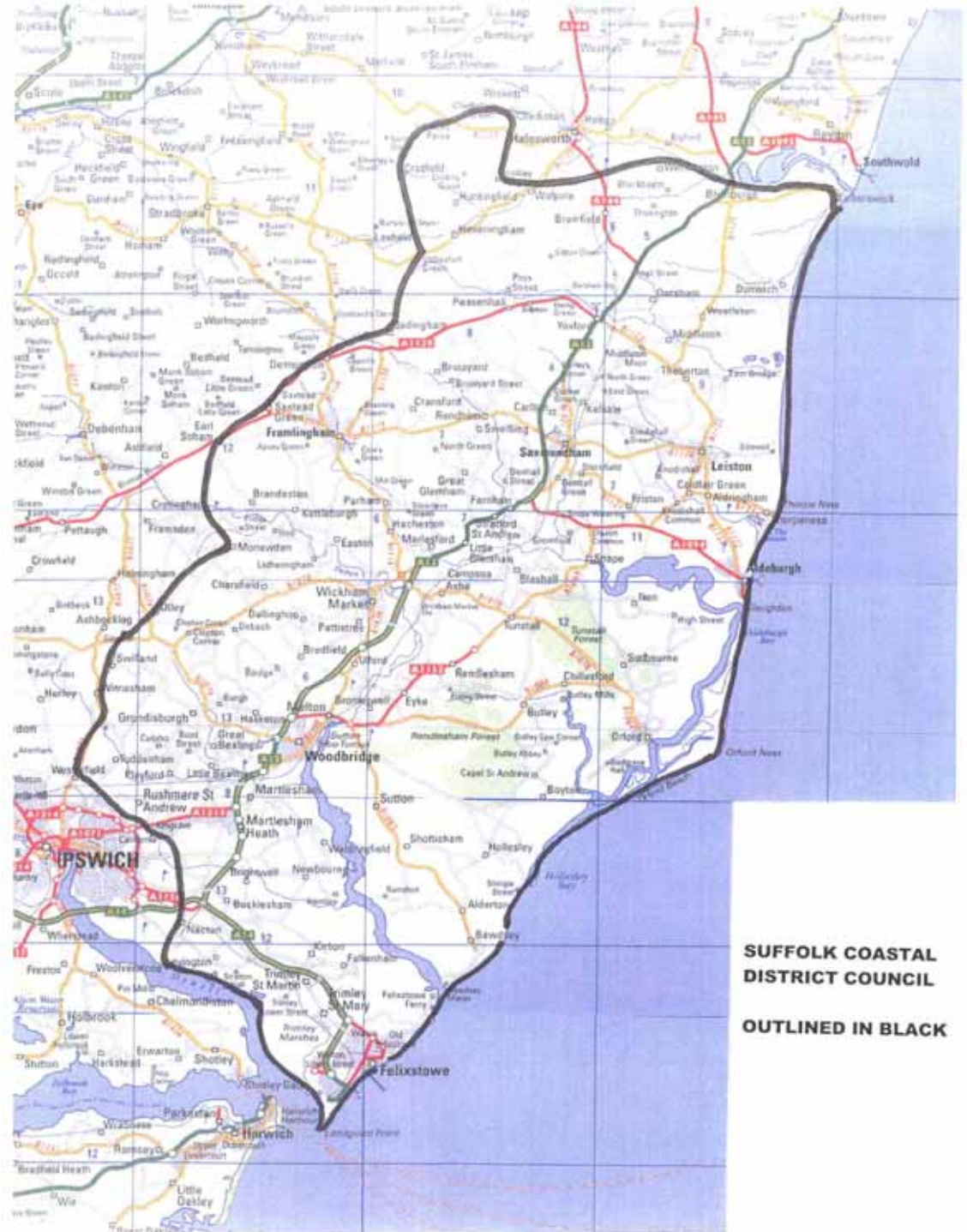
This Strategy is a strategy for the District and has been developed by Suffolk Coastal to enable the value of play to be recognised and embedded in the policies and procedures that support the work of the District Council and its partners. It relates to play in all its forms across the District and recognises that differing elements of the Strategy may be delivered by Suffolk Coastal's partners.

The Strategy has been developed in such a way that it links to the overarching Suffolk County-wide strategy produced by Partners in Play Suffolk (PIPS) and recognises the contribution that Suffolk Coastal District Council and its partners can make to the five key outcomes identified within the Every Child Matters Green Paper of 2003 and confirmed through the Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan, namely:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing

2. SUFFOLK COASTAL – THE DISTRICT

2.1 Map of the District



2.2 The Area

Suffolk Coastal District covers an area of 88,938 hectares and is located on the east coast of Britain to the north and east of Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk

The District has a population of 115,000 and it is largely rural in character with 117 Town and Parish Councils. Its principle towns, Felixstowe and Woodbridge are both situated in the south of the District, while to the north, lies gently rolling countryside bisected by a series of river valleys which broaden in to estuaries as they near the coast.

Through out the area are scattered many charming villages and small towns which give the district part of its unique appeal. The tranquil, unspoilt quality extends to the surrounding countryside and heritage coastline, much of it designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in recognition of its importance. A considerable part of the coast is linked by a series of nature reserves. The District also boasts many sites of historical importance including castles at Orford and Framlingham and the Sutton Hoo Burial site.

For visitors seeking a more traditional British seaside experience the resort of Felixstowe has much more to offer including a range of excellent accommodation and easy access by road. Further north is Aldeburgh, a smaller seaside holiday town close to the internationally famous Snape Maltings concert Hall. Tourism employs approximately 3500 people throughout the District and attracts a tourism spend of £211 million. It is a vital part of the District's economy

The British Energy nuclear power station, Sizewell, is based in the north of the District near the small working town of Leiston and the Port of Felixstowe, one of the largest container ports in Europe is based in the south of the District in Felixstowe. BT's development headquarters, Adastral Park is also based in the District.

2.3 Demographics

Of the 115,000 residents in Suffolk Coastal 27,700 are younger than 19. This represents 24% of the population.

Of this 24%:

22.3% (6177) are aged	0 - 4
25.9% (7175) are aged	5 - 9
27.9% (7728) are aged	10 - 14
23.9% (6620) are aged	15 - 19

In terms of Ethnic Group 95.79% (110,055) of the population are White British with the remainder being spread over the Black & Ethnic

Minority groups in small migrant worker communities or as individual families within indigenous communities.

Due to the mainly rural nature of the District, transport links outside the urban areas tend to be poor and there are some isolated areas of deprivation.

3 SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

3.1 Suffolk Coastal District Council's Vision

The overall vision for Suffolk Coastal is wide-ranging and all encompassing. This Strategy will identify the contribution that play can make to this vision whilst recognising that the outcomes from the Strategy will mainly be of direct benefit to Children and Young People, although there will be indirect benefit to all members of the community.

The vision for the future of Suffolk Coastal is that, building upon the best of the present, it should be a district where people:

- Want to live and to invest
- Care for others and the environment

The Council's overall goal is to help, with other relevant bodies, to realise this vision by ensuring that Suffolk Coastal is a place where the community continues to enjoy the highest quality of life and receive top quality efficient services from the Council. To meet the Council's overall goal the Council will focus on:

- Strengthening the economy
- Tackling rural issues
- Protecting and enhancing the environment
- Meeting housing needs
- Developing a safe and healthy community with access to leisure opportunities
- Fulfilling its obligations by the quality delivery of all its essential services

The core values that underpin the Council's conduct and work are:

- Responding to community and customers needs
- Valuing all people
- Ensuring wise use of resources
- Acting with integrity at all times
- Being accountable

3.2 Suffolk Coastal's Strategic Objectives

Building on the vision for the district, and taking close account of the objectives in the Suffolk Coastal Community Strategy (See Appendix 1) the Council has identified six priority themes to focus its efforts:



- Community well-being
- Economy
- Rural issues
- Housing
- Environment
- Fiscal & democratic services

Supporting the achievement of our objectives under each of these themes are six perspectives which

are used to inform all of our activities:

- Serving our community
- Improving customer satisfaction
- Developing our people
- Effective leadership
- Optimising organisation performance
- Funding for future success

3.3 Links to Other Strategies

3.3.1 “Choosing Health” – Government White Paper

This Government White Paper, published in November 2004, states “that people’s patterns of behaviour are often set early in life and influence their health throughout their lives. Infancy, childhood and young adulthood are critical stages in the development of habits that will affect people’s health in later years.”

The Paper goes on to say that the actions taken aim to “ensure children and young people develop a good understanding of how they can balance the opportunities and in choices that impact on their health as they grow up”

The two statements above are particularly relevant to the provision of play opportunities and are incorporated in to the Action Plan where appropriate.

3.3.2 Every Child Matters

In 2003, the Government produced the Green Paper “Every Child Matters” that identified the five outcomes i.e. Being Healthy; Staying Safe; Enjoying and Achieving; Making a Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing. These were adopted by Suffolk County Council as the basis of the Suffolk Children and Young People’s Plan and were also adopted by the Young People sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership of which Suffolk Coastal is a major player.

3.3.3 Local Strategic Partnership

Suffolk Coastal is part of the Local Strategic Partnership which is a single body that brings together at a local level, public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors to support each other and work together.

The role of the Local Strategic Partnership is to:

- Prepare and implement a Community Strategy
- Bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives
- Help devise and meet Local Area Agreement targets

It is therefore essential that this play strategy contributes to the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and in turn is supported by the organisations that form the LSP. To ensure that the strong links between the LSP and play are maintained and continue, the LSP has evolved through the addition of further members into the Play Partnership

The linkages below demonstrate where the Play Strategy can make a positive contribution to the above agendas.

Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership sub-groups	Community Strategy Aim	Choosing Health Every Child Matters Local Area Agreement Outcome	Play Strategy helps to achieve this by:
Children and Young People	Improve access to services for young people	Be Healthy Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for children and young people to

		Enjoy and Achieve	<p>participate in activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe environment for children to play
Community Development	Co-ordinate the support for the community & Voluntary Sector from Key agencies	Healthier Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing opportunities for co-ordinated working for all service providers • Better access to services and information
Crime & Disorder Partnership	Work together to build a safer stronger and more secure Suffolk	Safer communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides access for physical activities and social interaction • Reduce crime and fear of crime
Economy, Learning and skills	Promote all year round tourism	Buoyant, competitive and entrepreneurial economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger vibrant communities • Increased tourism
Adults and Healthy Lifestyles	Reduce obesity in children	Be Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for children and young people to be physically active. • Provide opportunities for children to participate in “risky” play.

3.3.4 Local Development Framework (LDF)

Planning shapes the places where people live and work. The local development framework is a key component in the delivery of the sustainable community strategy, setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing a long term spatial vision which will deliver sustainable development responding to economic, social and

environmental needs. Consultation carried out to direct the development of the LDF includes the need for recreational space – including play. This is supported by existing policies which will include this Strategy and others including PPG17 and SPG15.

3.3.5 Policy Planning Guidance 17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

PPG17 states;

“Local Authorities should ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreation facilities (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities) where planning permission is granted for new development (especially housing). Planning obligations should be used, where appropriate, to seek increased provision of open spaces and local sports and recreational facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities. “

3.3.6 Supplementary Planning Guidance 15 – Outdoor Playing Space

This guidance supports Policy AP103 which sets out how new housing developments will be expected to ensure that sufficient outdoor playing space is available to meet the needs of respective residents of that development.

3.3.7 Green Space Strategy

Suffolk Coastal is currently in the process of developing a Green Space Strategy that will assess current availability and future demands for green space for recreational purposes. The Play Partnership will be one of the main consultees for the development of this strategy that, when completed and adopted, will be incorporated into the LDF process.

4 CURRENT PLAY PROVISION

4.1 Overview

Throughout the Suffolk Coastal district there are numerous opportunities for free play in areas such as the beach, the countryside and forests. The opportunities offered by the natural environment are complimented by a variety of mechanisms provided by a variety of organisations. Suffolk Coastal recognises that this provision has been on an ad hoc basis, so by developing this strategy it is anticipated that provision will become more focused to ensure that it is targeted where there is most need. The Strategy recognises the need for Suffolk Coastal to work with a variety of partners to deliver an integrated service.

4.2 Fixed Play Equipment

4.2.1 Ownership of the fixed play equipment throughout the District is split between the District Council and Parish/Town Councils with the District Council owning 35 sites across the District. The map at Appendix 2 identifies the location of these play areas across the District. It is Suffolk Coastal's long-term aim to devolve ownership of its play areas to town and parish councils to provide more local involvement. Suffolk Coastal has allocated funds to enable these play areas to be refurbished/updated to bring them up to modern day standards and details of this programme are attached at Appendix 3.

4.2.2 Suffolk Coastal is currently the lead partner in two projects to provide skateboard parks in Woodbridge and Felixstowe aimed at the 8 to 13 year age group. Local children are actively involved in raising funds to enable these two projects to be undertaken.

Skate parks have already been provided in Leiston, Framlingham and Wickham Market by the respective town and parish councils.

4.2.3 All fixed equipment is inspected regularly by ROSPA (or an equivalent organisation) to ensure that it complies with current Health & Safety standards. In addition a survey has recently been carried out to assess the "play ability" of the current equipment together with its conditions. The findings of this survey have been used to identify priorities for a programme of refurbishment of Suffolk Coastal's play areas.

4.2.4 The play sector publication "Best Play" states;

"Play provision should aim to manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm"

The Play Safety Forum in their document "Managing Risk in Play" includes the statement;

“Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury”.

Fear of litigation leads many play providers to minimise the risk of injury at the expense of other more fundamental objectives such as to stop children from enjoying a healthy range of play opportunities, limiting their enjoyment and causing potentially damaging consequences for their development.

On the basis of the above, Suffolk Coastal will be working with their Risk Management Team to develop clear well understood policies for the inclusion of an element of “risk” in future provision.

- 4.2.5** Suffolk Coastal is conscious of the need to ensure that their play facilities are fully accessible and a survey of existing play facilities has recently been carried out to identify any shortfalls in terms of accessibility. Funds have been allocated in this current financial year to carry out appropriate improvements to the 13 plays areas identified as being most in need of improvement. Additional funds will be sought in future years to continue this programme of improving accessibility.
- 4.2.6** As well as the play equipment currently in the ownership of the Council, Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 is used to encourage developers to provide play equipment in new developments. Ownership of this equipment would normally pass to the District Council on completion of the development. Where S106 is not used to further the provision of play space/equipment all those submitting planning applications would be expected to contribute to the play space fund as outlined in the Council’s Local Plan under Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 15.
- 4.2.7** Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 15.

As part of the SPG15 an annual Parish Schedule/Audit is undertaken by the 117 parishes within the District to ascertain current levels of play (and sport) provision. A full version of the Schedule is published annually following consultation with each of the Town and Parish Councils within the District. (Due to the size of this Schedule it is not attached as an appendix, but is available on request. An example of the type of information it contains is attached at Appendix 4)

The Schedule examines the level and quality of provision of outdoor playing space and facilities within each parish (including Towns). It

identifies where deficiencies exist, what those deficiencies are and suggests appropriate proposals for improvement.

Suffolk Coastal's adopted standard of provision is 0.7 hectares playing space per 1000 population

Play areas are assessed against the following Standard of Provision, Quality and Distribution.

- Standard of Provision,

An assessment is made against those standards recommended by the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) it recommends the use of three main types of play areas:

- i) Local Areas for Play (LAP): within one minutes walking time of home, catering for children up to 6 years old, and appropriate for low-key games or play with small equipment;
- ii) Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs): within 5 minutes walking time of home, catering mainly for children up to 8 years old, and offering at least five items of play equipment;
- iii) Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS); within 15 minute's walking time of home, catering for children up to 14 years old and offering at least eight types of play equipment.

- Quality of Provision

Included in the terms and conditions of any grant made through SPG15 funding is a recommendation that all play equipment is inspected regularly by ROSPA (or an equivalent organisation) to ensure that it meets current Health & Safety standards. Any new equipment installed is required to comply with EN 1176

- Distribution

As can be seen from the Schedule attached at Appendix 5 there are wide variations in levels of provision against local plan requirements against levels of population. This is only to be expected given that there are 117 Town and Parishes in a rural District.

Since the use of SPG 15 funds began in 2003, over £460,000 has been spent on the provision of play facilities and contributions continue to be collected from developers.

Suffolk Coastal has recently appointed an Outdoor Play Space Officer to promote the use of these funds across the District.

4.3 Other Play Provision

4.3.1 Child Care

Most of the childcare provision in the District is under the control and management of Suffolk County Council. It is recognised that these providers play an essential role in developing play provision across the District. Organisations that provide child care facilities have been invited to be part of the Play Partnership group and will have an important role to play in its development. The Children's Information Service for the Suffolk Coastal area identifies 60 childminders, 17 day nurseries, 11 holiday play schemes, 32 nursery schools, 13 out of school care providers, 27 pre-school playgroups and 37 toddler groups.

4.3.2 Activities for children

The Active Communities team in Suffolk Coastal work with the Council's partners DC Leisure and Openwide International Ltd to provide a programme of activities for children and young people during the school summer holidays. The programme which can be seen at <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/summer/> provides a variety of play, sport and arts activities for children and young people ranging from 5 to 19 years of age. The play scheme element of the programme is delivered on behalf of Suffolk Heritage Housing Association. The play activities provided by the Council are regularly monitored through questionnaires completed by the participants to ensure that the activities provided are what are wanted and that they are of a suitable quality.

Suffolk Coastal works closely with OPTUA, a group established to promote and provide assistance for people with disabilities, and this together with the formation of the Suffolk Coastal Disability Sport and Leisure Forum and the Service's for All Working Group ensure that the needs of all children are taken into consideration when shaping the future provision of sport and play.

DC Leisure, the private company that manages the Leisure Centres in the District on behalf of Suffolk Coastal provides a programme of activities aimed at children and young people throughout the year. They operate facilities across the District which includes swimming pools, soft play areas and a variety of traditional sporting opportunities.

Both Suffolk Coastal and DC Leisure work closely with 'Collective Opportunities', who provide funds for children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate and 'Out and About', who provide

support for children and young people with physical and learning disabilities

In addition this year has seen the establishment of www.coastalpotato.co.uk – a website pulling together many of the sports, art and play activities available to children across the District provided by various organisations. This project has been funded by Suffolk Coastal and Felixstowe Leisure Centre. In addition a contribution was made by the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Young People.

4.3.3 Extended School Development Officers (ESDO)

The three ESDOs based in the District work with the schools to offer a range of out of school activities making links with the local community so increasing opportunities for play. Information about these activities will be linked into the “coastal potato” website.

4.3.4 Children’s Centres

Children’s Centres throughout the district are developing a range of play opportunities for 0-5 years old, working with parents and family carers.

4.4 Inclusion

Suffolk Coastal District Council is committed to equality of opportunity including equality of access to the services we provide.

Children and young people may be prevented from participating fully in activities for a variety of reasons which could include unfair treatment or exclusion on the basis of age, race, gender, disability, faith, language, skin colour, sexual orientation, socio-economic background or some other personal characteristic or circumstance.

Suffolk Coastal’s Equality and Diversity Policy sets out its commitment to ensuring that individuals or groups are not discriminated against for any reason, in employment, access to services, contracting or partnering arrangements, consultation, and involvement.

As previously noted in section 4.2.5 an accessibility survey has been carried out to identify any shortfalls in terms of accessibility to play areas and in section 4.3.2, which describes how we are working to ensure open access to activities.

Through the Play Partnership Suffolk Coastal will promote and take a lead in encouraging other play providers to have equality and diversity at the heart of service provision in design and delivery becoming a forum for shared best practice and a sounding board for concerns.

Further information on the Equality and Diversity Policy can be found on the Councils website at <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk>

5. SUFFOLK COASTAL'S STARTING POINT

- 5.1** As can be seen from the information above, Suffolk Coastal currently provides a variety of facilities and activities suitable for all children and young people. Some of these have been developed with an emphasis on what they can provide in terms of activities leading to a healthy life style. The contribution that these activities and use of the facilities make to play has not always been recognised or developed. This in some part may be due to the lack of a cohesive approach to play across the District
- 5.2** The Local Strategic Partnership, in addressing the five themes identified in the Every Child Matters Green Paper, has established a number of sub-groups. The Young People sub-group consists of representatives from many of the organisations that provide services for young people and is chaired by the Council's Portfolio holder with responsibility for Young People. As the sub-group provides so many linkages to the Every Child Matters agenda and the Suffolk children and Young People's plan it was thought to be the most effective mechanism for ensuring that the need for play in all its forms was considered in the widest possible arena. Therefore the sub-group, which has now been expanded to include representatives from the private sector, has evolved into the Play Partnership.
- 5.3** A consultation process has been undertaken with the Play Partnership and other organisations in identifying the priorities that this Strategy supports.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Introduction

In 1991 the UK Government ratified the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child; Article 12 states that all children have the right to express views on all matters of concern to them and to have those views taken seriously.

The Play Partnership has adopted the Suffolk County Council's Strategy "Having my Say" details of which are included at Appendix 4 of the county-wide document "Play Matters – A Strategy for Suffolk".

Consultation is integral to the success of this Strategy as it is well known that children and young people are more likely to take ownership of their play if their voices are heard.

In ascertaining what is needed in terms of play provision across the District, wide ranging consultation has been carried out using a variety of methods and by consulting differing groups across a wide age range. The Play Partnership has been one of the main consultees involved in this process. It is not practicable to include full details of the whole range of consultation although this is available if necessary. Instead listed below is a summary of the mechanisms used, the results gathered and the key findings of the consultation.

6.1.1 Young People's Organisations

The role of the Children and Young People Sub Group of the Local Strategic Partnership, which has evolved into the Play Partnership, is to act as a mechanism for ensuring the needs of children and young people, including those detailed in the Suffolk Children and Young People's plan are taken into consideration at all levels of policy setting through to the service delivery. This sub-group is chaired by Suffolk Coastal's Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Young People, who also represents Suffolk Coastal on the countywide Children's Trust Board.

The Children and Young People sub-group brings together representatives from the following organisations:

Young Suffolk - Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector
Suffolk Coastal District Council (Officers and Members)
Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations
Extended Schools
Suffolk Carers - Support Group
Suffolk County Council Children's Futures
Suffolk County Council Children's Centres

Primary Care Trust
Community Safety Team
Learning & Skills Council
Suffolk Acre -Funding Advisers
Suffolk Police
Just 42 - Youth Club
Rochford House - Youth Club
CYDS - Youth Club
Suffolk Youth and Connexions Service
HEART Foyer - Flagship Housing Support Group
Community Development
Suffolk Libraries
Private Sector (e.g. DC Leisure)
Youth Offending Service.
Local Strategic Partnership – Young People Forum Co-ordinator

This sub-group has been consulted regarding this Strategy and the views expressed have been incorporated within it.

6.1.2 Consultation with Children & Young People

i) Coastline

Coastline is a magazine produced by Suffolk Coastal District Council that is distributed to every household in the District, a circulation of 55,000. The magazine is also available on the Council's website.

In the spring 2007 edition, a competition aimed at three age groups of children asked them to submit drawings showing what play or leisure facilities they would like to see where they live.

ii) Key stage 2 – Framlingham/Leiston Cluster

A survey via questionnaire organised by the Extended School Development Officer was undertaken during the spring term of 2007. 281 school age children were asked for information about the activities they would like to see provided.

iii) Year 9 - Framlingham/Leiston Cluster

A survey via questionnaire of 252 children from the above cluster was undertaken seeking information about their preferences for summer holiday activities.

iv) Year 4 - Causton Junior School - Felixstowe

Consultation with Year 4 children using The Pod, a DVD diary room, a touch screen multi-media kiosk and an ideas board.

6.1.3 SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voice)

Suffolk Coastal, through the Young Peoples sub group of the LSP has established a Youth Forum (known as SCTV) to ascertain the views and thoughts of young people aged 12 to 18 on a variety of subjects, including play.

6.1.4 Play Providers

Through Suffolk County Council a questionnaire was sent to the registered childcare providers in the District.

6.2 What the consultations tell us

The following conclusions can be drawn from the consultation with children:

- i) One of the most popular activities among children was cycling
- ii) Outdoor adventure activities were among the four most frequently suggested activities
- iii) 49% of children questioned did not have access to a car at all times
- iv) Among Y9 children only 8% of the total sample responding wanted to go skateboarding.
- v) Over half of the Y9 young people surveyed would like activities where they have time to sit and chat and also have time for an activity – rather than one or the other.
- vi) Although the majority of Y4 children questioned liked the area, they identified problems with traffic, noise and a lack of facilities.
- vii) When asked how they would improve the area, Y4 children commented;
 - “ Trees”
 - “More things to do like play areas or a park”
 - “Make more play areas”
 - “I’d make new swings and stuff”

Questionnaires completed by play providers indicated that;

- viii) 60% thought that the level of play provision for 13-19 years was less than adequate
- ix) 40% thought that the quality of play provision for 13-19 years was poor

6.3 Projects informed by this consultation

In selecting what would be the best way of using the funds from the Big Lottery (subject to the application being successful) to meet the needs identified through this consultation, the following projects have been identified;

- 1) Cluster Bus (See 6.2 iii, v, viii, ix)
In conjunction with the Leiston and Framlingham Cluster Extended School Development Officer the fitting out of a double-decker bus to take information and activities for 13 – 19 year olds to the rural areas in the north of the District
- 2) Rendlesham Forest cycle Trail (See 6.2i, ii,vi)
In conjunction with the Woodbridge and Kesgarve Cluster Area Extended School Development Officer and the Forestry Commission to provide a cycle trail through Rendlesham Forest. This would be aimed at 8 to 13 year olds but could also be used by adults and children of all ages.
- 3) Felixstowe Play Park(see 6.2 vi,vii)
The third project is the provision of an exciting unique play area to be located off the seafront in Felixstowe. This will not only benefit all local children, providing much needed play facilities but will also attract visitors to the area so contributing to the economic wellbeing of the District . The project also has the potential to attract additional funding as it will contribute to the regeneration of the Felixstowe area.

Further details of all these projects are attached at Appendix 5

7. SUFFOLK COASTAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIVE KEY ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOMES IDENTIFIED IN THE COUNTY WIDE STRATEGY

Suffolk Coastal, together with the local authorities in Suffolk has been a member of Partners in Play, Suffolk (PIPS) since its inception in May 2006. PIPS were established to ensure that there was a countywide approach to achieving the following outcomes.

7.1 The profile of play in Suffolk will be raised and PIPS vision of play promoted.

Suffolk Coastal and the Play Partnership will endeavour to: -

Ensure that all departments of Suffolk Coastal together with their Service Delivery partners consider play in its widest context when making decisions.

Ensure that play in all its forms is considered by the Young People sub- group of the Local Strategic Partnership (Play partnership) during their decision making process and is promoted by the group when ever possible.

Work with partners to promote play by supporting the evolution of the Play Partnership to consist of statutory, voluntary and private organisations to promote play and the opportunities for play across the District.

Identify a Champion for play in Suffolk Coastal, and to promote the inclusion of Play as a specific responsibility of a Portfolio Holder.

7.2 The audit of provision will inform future planning and identify workforce strategies.

Suffolk Coastal and the Play Partnership will:-

Continue to monitor the provision of play equipment through the Annual Parish Audit, and to measure improvements in provision.

Become a focal point for consultation regarding council wide strategies such as LDF and Green Space Strategy.

Consult with children and young people to ensure that their views are taken into consideration when developing future planning policy.

When resources are available, undertake surveys to establish the levels of usage of play equipment. Keep records of the number and

ages of children and young people participating in activities provided by Suffolk Coastal and its partners.

Promote and encourage the take up training provided by Suffolk County Council in terms of workforce development through Early Years and Childcare Services.

7.3 Access to and the variety of quality play provision for all children and young people in Suffolk will be increased.

“All children do not need to access play spaces in the same way but they are all fundamentally entitled to go out to play. Good design of public play space is needed in order to make this possible. Every child is different – not every piece of equipment in a play space needs to be accessible to every child but access to the social experience is key.”(1)

Suffolk Coastal and the Play Partnership will work to:-

Ensure that the fundamental principle of inclusiveness is embedded in all aspects of play provision.

Increase the range of indoor and outdoor play opportunities harnessing the natural environment and making the most of local features such as beaches, coastlines, forests and heaths.

To provide and where resources permit expand on the current programme of activities that meets both the play and active lifestyles of all children and young people.

Ensure that where possible developers provide play opportunities, and that they are provided in such a way that it enables independent access and minimises travel distances.

(N.B. 49% of KS2 children did not have access to a car at all times)

Ensure that all planning for play considers the needs of children with additional needs including but not limited to disability, cultural, poverty, social exclusion.

Ensure that all of its existing play areas comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Provide access to information about play opportunities by working with all providers to develop appropriate methods of sharing information e.g. Young Info Link.

(Duty of Local Authorities - Childcare Act 2006)

7.4 An infrastructure for play will support and develop play policies and action plans in borough and district councils to facilitate the applications to big lottery and other funding streams

Suffolk Coastal and the Play Partnership will;

Continue to work with PIPS, meeting on a regular basis to share good practice and resources as appropriate.

Continue to work with Town & Parish Councils to maximise the opportunities provided by the Play Space Fund.

Where practicable, ensure that play opportunities include risk and challenge enabling children to acquire the appropriate skills to support safe play.

Ensure that local play networks are supported to become independent and so ensure a sustainable future and clear voice for play in Suffolk Coastal.

Work with partners to attract external funding for projects that meet the needs of the community.

Develop projects that meet the needs of the community and fulfil the requirements of Big Lottery to draw down ring fenced funding.

7.5 The views of children and young people in Suffolk will inform the development of play, monitoring and evaluation.

Suffolk Coastal and the Play Partnership will;

Continue to provide a channel of communication through the Young People's LSP Sub- Group to those groups that represent the views of young people including the Young People's Forum to ensure that their views are taken into consideration in the provision of future play opportunities;

Promote working within the framework of "Having my Say" and "Best Play" to extend the choice and control that children have over their play.

8 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Suffolk Coastal recognises the importance of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process.

Performance Indicator LIB115 has recently been adopted by Play England. This indicator relates to the development and implementation of a corporate play policy. This PI. will be incorporated into Suffolk Coastal's Best Value Improvement Plan together with a number of other local P.I.s as detailed below

These P.I.'s will assess how much and how often children and young people play out in their neighbourhoods; the access they have to suitable spaces for play and informal recreation; the quality of those spaces; and how satisfied children and their parents / guardians are with local spaces for play and informal recreation. Further details are incorporated in the Action Plan shown at Appendix 6

Performance Indicator	Description	Standard/Measure
National LIB115	Development and implementation of a corporate play policy	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115a	The policy is widely scoped , including any local authority services that may directly or indirectly impact on children' play opportunities	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115b	The play policy clearly identifies the importance of play	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115c	The policy is integrated with other relevant community, corporate and departmental plans	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115d	The policy was developed drawing on consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115e	The policy has been endorsed by the Chief Executive and/or Members of the relevant committee	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115f	The play policy is based on a clear baseline assessment of local needs and identifies current provision and opportunities for play	Advanced/established/emerging.

National – sub-heading LIB115g	The play policy provides a clear framework for implementation and delivery	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115h	A Play Policy working group with key partners has been established for delivery	Advanced/established/emerging.
National – sub-heading LIB115i	A framework is in place for monitoring progress and regular reporting on plans	Advanced/established/emerging.
Local Play LPI-1	The percentage uptake of children participating in Active Communities organised activities	Summer play scheme participation figures
Local Play LPI-2	The percentage uptake of children participating in organised activities at Council owned Leisure Facilities.	DC Leisure and Spa Pavilion junior participation figures
Local Play LPI-3	The percentage of children and young people aged birth to 16 that have access to at least three different types of space or facility, at least one of which is a dedicated place for play and informal recreation, which are all within easy walking or cycling distance.	Open space and play strategy audits GIS mapping
Local Play LPI- 4	Increase the take up of available funds through the Section 106 Play Space Fund	% of £ granted
Local Play LPI – 5	Percentage of Local Areas for Play (LAP): within one minutes walking time of home, catering for children up to 6 years old, and appropriate for low-key games or play with small equipment	Outdoor Playing Space Parish Schedule
Local Play LPI – 6	Percentage of Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs): within 5 minutes walking time of home, catering mainly for children up to 8 years old, and offering at least five items of play equipment	Outdoor Playing Space Parish Schedule
Local Play LPI – 7	Percentage of Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS): within 15 minutes walking time of home, catering for children up to 14 years old and offering at least eight types of play equipment	Outdoor Playing Space Parish Schedule
Local LPI - 8	The percentage of all children and young people who think that the range and quality of play	Participant's survey

	activities offered during the summer holidays are good / very good.	
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9 WAY FORWARD

9.1 Action Plan

Attached to this Strategy at Appendix 6 is an Action Plan outlining the work programme for Suffolk Coastal and its partners to implement this strategy and its associated projects. This Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that progress is maintained.

9.2 Promoting the Strategy

Following the formal adoption of this Strategy it will be promoted through the local media by the issuing of press releases. It will also be promoted through Suffolk Coastal's own publicity e.g. on their website and quarterly magazine "Coastline"

The Young People Sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership will be tasked with ensuring that their organisations are fully aware of the contents of the Strategy and the Action Plan and to promote this publicly where ever possible.