Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
Description of Current Service Baseline	Who provides the service?	The Children & Young People's Strategy Team is provided by SBC and is situated within Children, Education and Social Care (CESC).
		Notes: The team works in partnership with the Countryside and Greenspace - Strategy and Development Team (who have also produced a baseline report).
		The operational responsibility for the maintenance of fixed SBC play areas is currently undertaken by Care For Your Area.
	History how service was formed and why it exists	The service was formed as part of a restructure of the Council's Service Development Team in 06/07. The team's remit is to provide a strategic framework for development and commissioning of the borough's children's social care services. Under the Every Child matters framework, the responsibility for children's play resides with the Director of Children's Services; this is why the role in relation to children's play sits within CESC. Grant funding was secured from Big the Lottery Fund (£488,188) and DCSF (£1,128,223) for the development of services under the strategy under two specific programmes.
	How does the service perform	The Play Strategy contributes to the National Indicator NI199 (Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas).
	What does inspection tell us about this service	N/A to date

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
	What resources are used	Support from Strategic Manager Children & Young People (one of a number of areas of responsibility).
	What assets are used to deliver the current service	Office accommodation
	Are there any limitations or barriers affecting the delivery of the service	The Strategic Manager for Children & Young people is responsible for the management of the Play Partnership and implementation of the Play Strategy and associated action plan.
	If the service is outsourced or provided by a third party, how are service standards monitored	Grant funding from the Big Lottery Fund has been awarded to Futurity Tees Valley to provide a mobile Play Scheme for the borough. The local authority through the Strategic manager Children & Young People allocates the grant funding as the responsible body, but the recipient of the grant allocation is Futurity.
Challenge	Could the service be provided through a different mechanism	The management of the Play Strategy and Action Plan is not required to be provided via Children & Young People's Strategy, however currently the responsibility for children's play is with the Director of Children's Services.
Customer Baseline	Who are the customers what are their needs now How are service users consulted and how do their views shape delivery How satisfied are the customers	No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy. The focus of the work is through the Play Partnership, and ensuring that there is an up to date Strategy and Action Plan. The Customers are The Big Lottery (in relation to the required project monitoring, quarterly / annual reporting. And the recipients of grant allocations Futurity Tees Valley. Note in the last 2 years this has also included the Borough Council (Development and Neighbourhood Services), and community
		based projects. The grant funding that was centrally available through the DCSF (now DfE) ends in March 2011, and is no

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
		longer ring fenced, and the grant allocation from the Big Lottery ceases on 30 September 2011 (3 years funding).
	How do you communicate with your users	No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy.
		No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy.
	How are these services promoted / marketed	
	What do Viewpoint Surveys/ internal audit reports tell us about the service?	
Customer		
Challenge	Are there customers who could use the service but don't	N/A
	Are there customers using the service who shouldn't be	N/A
	Who are the customers of the future and what are their needs	N/A
	What is likely to impact on demand for these services in the future	N/A
	services in the future	N/A
	What do complaints/ compliments tell you about these services	
Aims & Objectives		
Baseline	Is the service required by statute	Not in relation to the role of the Children & Young People's Strategy Team.

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
	Is there a statutory level of service	N/A
	Is the service responsive or proactive or a mixture	Mixture in that it reacts to government's guidance on children's play and then sets a strategy for local implementation.
Challenge	Is the service needed	In line with the Government guidance and the requirements of the national Play Strategy, the local authority it is good practice to have locally devised Play Strategy.
	What would happen if the service was not provided either in whole or part	No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy
	How would the service react to new pressures what capacity would be required to deal with additional / new demands	No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy
Aims & Objectives		
Challenge	Who provides a similar service to this using a different delivery mechanism e.g. external partnerships, shared services etc	No direct provision of service from C&YP Strategy
Relevance / Context		
Baseline / Challenge	How does the service fit with the overall aims of the Council	It is not possible to separate out the Service form that provided by Countryside and Greenspace, so the contribution is the same in that it contributes to all 8 strands of Sustainable Community Strategy and many aspects of the Council Plan.

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
	How does the service contribute to key policy areas	 The Play Strategy contributes to several policy areas, e.g. Regenerate the Borough through the delivery of major local and sub-regional projects Improve and promote a sustainable transport network Make the Borough a cleaner, greener and more attractive environment Increase participation in sport and active leisure Reduce health inequalities by adding 'life to years and years to life' Reduce levels of obesity in children, young people and adults Further develop Community Engagement infrastructure and activity
	What policies, plans and strategies impact on the service e.g. statutory, policy, function, other services	 Stockton on Tees Play Area Strategies Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy Draft Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy Sport & Active Leisure Strategy
	Are there any political judgements / decisions involved in determining the level of service	The current Play Strategy is endorsed by Cabinet (see attached).
Financial / Resource Considerations Baseline	What are the costs of the service	Costs associated with officer time
	Capital and revenue costs What is the level of 3 rd party	No capital budget (outside of the grant allocations.

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
	expenditure What contracts or other arrangements are in place (spend analysis)	Contract with Futurity Tees Valley (via Big Lottery Grant Funding; £200,000 over 3 year ring fenced).
	What is the Councils commitment to contracts / other arrangements	Above contract to 30 September 2011.
	Do you have any charging policies	None, the strategy is about free Play for children & young people.
	How have Gershon efficiency savings impacted on the service and how where the service planning to meet future Gershon efficiency targets?	N/A
	How will the current financial climate affect the service?	The ring fencing of funding may be removed, or funding could be reduced or removed.
Financial / Resource Considerations Challenge	How can you demonstrate that the service is cost effective overall?	The project is monitored by the local authority on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund.
	Do external contracts offer value for money?	The contract for the mobile play scheme is monitored within the guidelines stipulated by the Big Lottery Fund. There is currently 14 left out of a total of 36 months to run on this contract.

Appendix 3 – Baseline Report - Play Strategy

Service Baseline / Initial Challenge	Guidance	Information
Service Drivers	What do we need to change and why?	We need to review the current Children's Play Strategy to reflect the National Play Strategy and other national guidance. The new strategy will provide a framework to deliver on the children's play agenda that includes both fixed play (parks and green and other open spaces) and other wider play opportunities for children and young people. The play strategy has links to the new Green Infrastructure Strategy and proposed Tree and Woodland Strategy.
	What are the main drivers of change?	 Changes in local, sub-regional and national policies and priorities Need to deliver value for money Need to adapt to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances (e.g. adaptation to climate change, changing public and community expectations, factors relating to local economy and so on)