

Appendix 5

EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Play Strategy

1. A Play Strategy is in place under the Children's Trust Board and runs till 2012. It has supported the development and refurbishment of Play areas across the Borough both through Big Lottery Funding and latterly the Department of Children Schools and Families Playbuilder Programme. The Children's Trust Board, through the strategy has supported the development of play and positive activities as part of the priorities "Enjoy and Achieve" and "Make a Positive Contribution". It is also part of the "Be Healthy" priority in supporting healthy lifestyles.
2. Play has been a theme delivered through the Extended Schools agenda in supporting schools to delivery a range of activities outside of normal school hours. This has seen schools operating in cluster groups and opening up their premises at the end of the school day, at weekends and during school holidays. The Extended Schools finances are due to end at the end of this financial year. Discussions are ongoing with schools as to how this agenda can be continued.
3. Positive Activities have been a significant element in the delivery of youth services, both in terms of the in-house youth work service and in supporting voluntary and community groups to deliver a wide range of activities, often to targeted groups. The in-house youth work services are presently being reviewed as part of a Scrutiny Review.
4. The Children's Fund has provided financial support to a range of voluntary sector providers in delivering a broad range of activities under the headings of positive activities and play, over a number of years. This funding is due to come to an end at the end of this financial year and at this stage it is not clear what future funding may be available. This will have an impact on some voluntary sector providers and in the overall delivery of services.
5. The Children's Trust Board is presently reviewing its priorities for 2011-2014 as part of the delivery of a new Children and Young People's Plan. It is not clear yet what these priorities will be, but it is likely that supporting play and positive activities will figure to some extent in supporting key outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Peter Seller,
12th October, 2010.