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Executive Summary

The new Milton Keynes Play Strategy gives an understanding about the importance of Play in Milton Keynes. Play is essential for children's healthy developments and for the acquisition of social skills and decision-making. It occurs in a variety of venues and settings, identified by the child.

The Play Strategy has been put together and undergone extensive consultation with a range of adults as well as children and young people.

The Play Strategy sets out a clear vision and mission for Play across the borough and focuses on 7 key areas for development

- ▶ choice of control of children and young people in Play.
- ▶ to ensure children and young people have the opportunity to test boundaries.
- ▶ play keeps children and young people safe from harm.
- ▶ play opportunities are maximised.
- ▶ provision fosters independence and self esteem.
- ▶ settings foster children's respect and social interaction.
- ▶ play fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

By working together across the various organisations involved in the Play Strategy Group we believe we can further develop exciting and valuable Play opportunities with children and young people in Milton Keynes.

Introduction

Play is central to children's lives and an essential ingredient of a happy childhood. It is an integral element of a healthy community and city life. Play is important to the child in providing an arena that is not overwhelmingly dominated by adult views and values.

Milton Keynes Council adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994 thereby making a formal commitment to ensuring service provision complies with the articles set out in the Convention. Following this, young people wrote the Milton Keynes Children's Charter. This highlighted, amongst other rights, the right to play and have fun.

We recognise the need for the Play Strategy to fit within the vision for the future of the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy. It has been developed in line with a set of principles and values that reflect the needs of children and young people in the Borough, and both the urban and rural areas of the borough.

It is important to recognise that play is not confined to swings and roundabouts, or that it is isolated from other Council services. Play provision should be seen as an opportunity to bring people together, thus enhancing community cohesion.

The focus of this strategy is on play opportunities for children and young people in the Borough, primarily in the 0 – 18 age range. We will ensure this strategy complements the Council's Children Youth & Play Plan, the Council's Cultural Strategy, Leisure Facilities Strategy, the Council's Parenting Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Community Strategy, Children's Fund, Children & Young Peoples Plan and Extended Schools Strategy. It will also relate to Local Area Agreements.

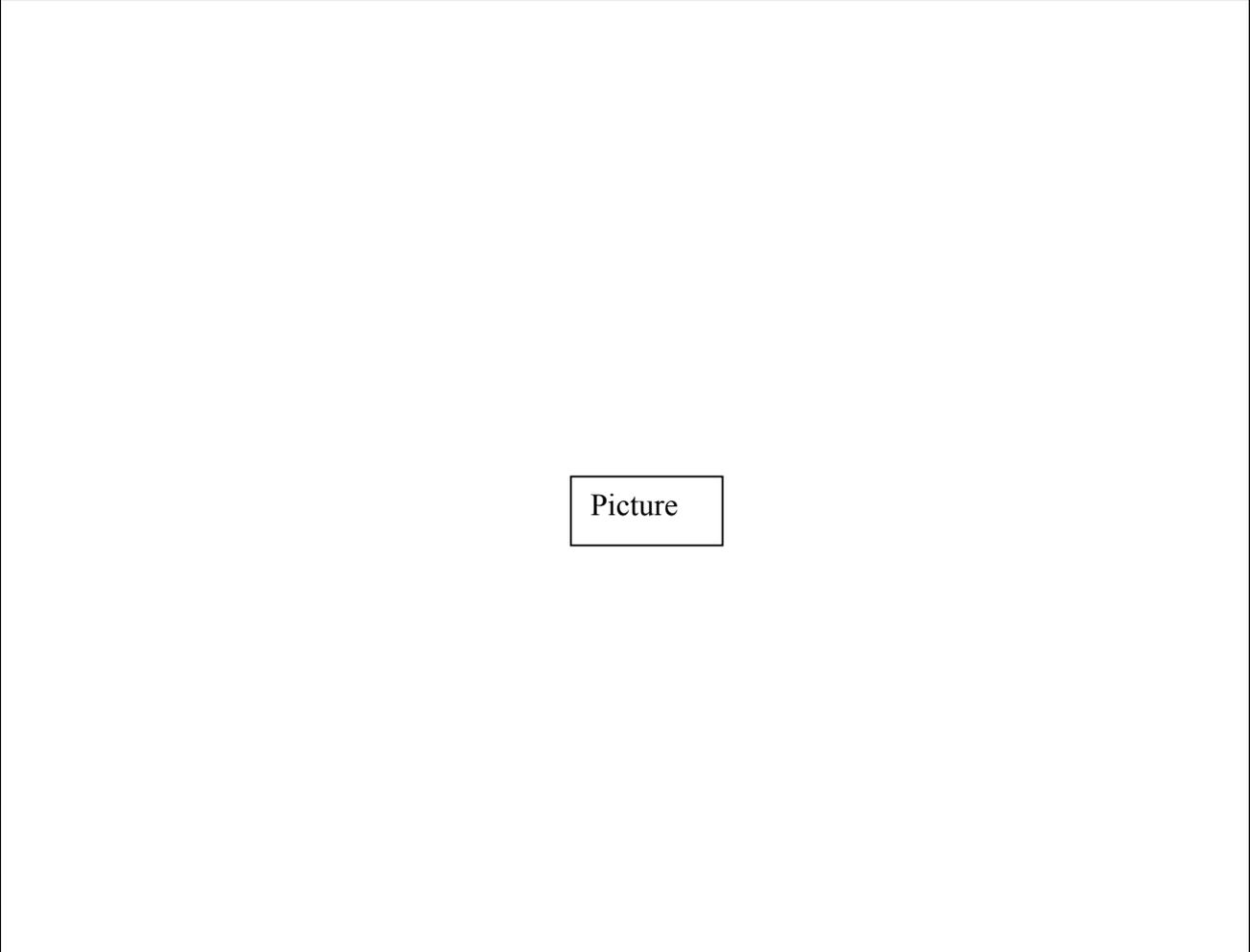
The strategy will therefore benefit:

- Children, their parents/carers and the communities they live in – by targeting services and facilities towards need
- Individuals and organisations working in the play sector – by offering common objectives and joined up thinking.
- And develop new opportunities

Why have a Play Strategy

It is imperative for a local authority to develop a Play Strategy to ensure that:-

- It defines an agreed set of principles, definitions and values.
- It provides a framework for the allocation of resources
- Play is included within both Council and Voluntary Sector plans and policies. The Play Strategy advises other plans and policies and other stakeholders including parish/town councils and the private sector.
- There is a foundation for safe and best practice
- A variety of play opportunities are developed through consultation with Children, young people and other stakeholders and where they are most needed
- There are appropriate principles regarding training nationally and locally and developed standards for the professional development of Play workers
- Play provision is sustained over a longer term, improves Play spaces and safe access to Play.



Picture

Defining Play

Play is understood to be what children do when given the freedom to follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons. Play may be social, emotional, creative, cognitive, imaginative or physical activity.

“State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and Leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”

(The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31:)



Play is

- **“Jumping in puddles, sliding down slides and running around having fun”**
- **“Kicking a ball, having fun”**
- **“Fun to watch, fun to do”**
- **I don’t play, but I cyber-party with my mates at The Point”**

(From children and young people in Milton Keynes – Summer 2006)



“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play, children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationships with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter”

(From Best Play – what play provision should be for children – Children’s Play Council (2001))



What is Play in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Council will create play opportunities that allow children and young people to explore their own environment within challenging but secure settings, regardless of age, gender, ability, race or religion, or sexuality.

Play occurs in a variety of settings in Milton Keynes.

(1) At home

Personally created and maintained opportunities and in spaces that children feel socially secure.

(2) Internal settings

With play workers, through play schemes, after school clubs, junior youth clubs, journeys to school, in front of shops, on street corners and in public spaces.

(3) Play areas

With formal equipped Play areas, the wider open spaces and self created play areas

(4) Formal education settings

With teachers, through schools, nurseries, children centres, arts programmes, and playtimes.

Play gives children and young people the opportunity to meet with friends. They often congregate in public spaces, just to be with their friends. It is important that we ensure these public meeting places are safe and attractive.

Children and young people spent only a quarter of their time in school curriculum activity, three quarters of their time is available to play. Children consulted over the summer of 2006 recorded that their natural play spaces are as follows:-

Add % from MKPA consultation

Children preferred out of school play spaces and nearly always sited where they can, spaces where they can be seen by a trusted adult. Most cases showed this was either a parent/carer/friend or it may be a Playworker/community warden or other adult.

There are currently 63 Preschools, 56 Day Nurseries, 48 After school clubs, 44 Holiday playschemes, 27 Creches and 72 Parent and Toddler Groups in Milton Keynes.

Borough Play Areas

There are currently 558 equipped play areas in the borough serving local communities. Much of the equipment needs updating evidenced by the amount of equipment that is removed due to deterioration, or because it no longer meets the latest standards. Every effort is made to keep play areas and contents formally inspected and maintained at periods of 1 week, 12 weeks and annually inspected to ROSPA recommended standards and areas are cleaned on a weekly basis and immediately in response to an emergency such as broken glass.

New Play areas are provided through new development each year in accordance with the Milton Keynes local plan at the equivalent of 3 to 5 sites per grid square. New play areas are designed to the current standards in both safety and play value and approved and adopted by Milton Keynes Council.

The Environment Directorate has overall responsibility for play areas within the context of the open space estate. Provision is the responsibility of Streetcare Localities who approve, adopt and pass them over to Landscape Services for maintenance. Milton Keynes Council own the great majority of play areas although some are owned by Parish Councils and others, but there is a mix of ownership of play areas between Milton Keynes Council, Town and Parish Councils and others.

Play Workers

In Milton Keynes a variety of professionals work with children and young people in Play settings, it is important to remember they are not all called play workers, but they all help create diverse and exciting play environments and act as a friendly resource when needed. They should encourage children and young people to make choices and offer a variety of opportunities.

Workers should be well supported and appropriately trained and qualified, and receive ongoing staff development and training.

Types of Play

This is a piece of theory about different types of play, which we are still waiting for the Play Association to write.

Positive Outcomes of Play

Play provides the opportunity for children to develop social, physical, cognitive, cultural, emotional and psychological skills.

It provides the opportunity for young people to be involved with their local environment.

It also provides opportunities to develop new friendships and gain independence.

Play gives children and young people the opportunity to be involved in decision making at the highest level in terms of play provision in Milton Keynes.

“State parties should assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”

(United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 12)

Values of Play

The values of Play are :-

- Child centred
- Offers choices
- Not controlled by Play workers
- Offers children rights to a stimulating environment with risks and challenges.

Barriers to Play

The barriers to play are :

Local consultation with children and young people during the summer of 2006 underlines the national indicators for barriers to Play which include

- safety
- bullying
- traffic
- dirty place spaces
- boring play
- lack of choice
- cost

The Milton Keynes Play Strategy aims to support the values and work to reduce the barriers to play.

Access for all to Quality Play

Milton Keynes Council believes that all children and young people want and need opportunities to play. Play provision should be welcoming and accessible to every child, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities.

We intend that play provision shall meet the inclusive play needs of all children and young people. Some children and young people will require additional support to ensure that they have access to the best possible play opportunities and some children and young people will need and want to have access to specialist as well as inclusive provision.

“ Children and young people with disabilities have an equal if not greater need for opportunities to take risks, since they may be denied the freedom of choice enjoyed by their non-disabled peers”

(Play Safety Forum Position Statement)

Profile of Children and Young People in Milton Keynes

The latest 'official' population figures for Milton Keynes borough, published by the Office for National Statistics are as follows:

Total population: 218,500

Population aged 0-19 years (inclusive): 59,300

Children and young people aged 0-19 make up 27.2% of the population and Milton Keynes is the local authority in the South East with the largest proportion of children and young people aged under 20. On average between 2000 and 2003 Milton Keynes had the second highest birth rate of local authorities the proportion of children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups is growing and changing. Milton Keynes has a very diverse population, the 2001 census indicated that 9.3% of the general population in Milton Keynes were from black and minority ethnic communities, the figure for school aged children is now over 15%.

Milton Keynes Play Vision

Our vision is that....

“We want all children and young people who live in, go to school in or visit Milton Keynes to experience and enjoy a wealth of play opportunities so that they can discover the world around them, build relationships and therefore develop as equal and positive participants in community life”

Milton Keynes Play Mission Statement

We are committed to the principles of play and recognise the value of play in the development of children and young people.

We will seek to ensure that children and young people have a right to play where, when and how they choose, within an atmosphere that is safe and that their play experiences are unique and valued.

Children and young people's play opportunities will be accessible, appropriate and in affordable environments.

This will be achieved by adapting the seven play objectives from "Best Play" (National Children's Bureau, 2002) that follows on the subsequent pages.

Opportunities will be available for children and young people to engage in "free Play" encouraging them to get involved in their own time and "Play" of their own making.

Milton Keynes Play Objectives

1. Services and facilities extend the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

The Play Strategy Group will:-

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
Carry out 3 citywide consultations a year with children and young people to ascertain their views and needs in terms of play provision. The results of the consultation will be public and be used to develop future provision.	January 2008 January 2009 January 2010	Play Strategy group
Carry out an audit of existing equipped play areas, ensuring areas are attractive for all ages and various cultures and young people with different abilities.	June 2007	Landscape & Countryside Department
Ensure all local settings collect children and young people's views and use them in planning their programmes	September 2007	Play Strategy Group
Use research collected from children and young people to influence planning of future play areas.	Ongoing	Landscape & Countryside Department
Carry out an audit of all play provisions in Milton Keynes, and identify gaps to develop further provision.	September 2008	Early Years and Childcare Team
Identify gaps in hard play areas and work with partners to develop further specific areas.	June 2008	Landscape & Countryside Department

Case Study

Case study 1

The Children's Centre was given a grant to improve the facilities available to the children.

The committee and staff team discussed what the priorities were and there were three areas that it was felt could be improved.

- Outdoor fixed play equipment
- New computer, with Internet access
- Large wheeled toys.

The children at After School Club were asked to vote on which one they would most want for the centre, and they decided that what they would like the most was some new fixed play equipment.

The children were asked to draw pictures of what they wanted the outside play area to look like. Lots of the children drew swings, Ariel runways, and football pitches. At the time our insurance company would not allow an Ariel runway, and a football pitch was too expensive, so we decided to get the children to do some hands on research.

During the Easter holidays we took the children out to Willen Lake, Stantonbury, Emberton Park and Salcey Forest, to play in the parks and see if there was any equipment that they liked.

The spinning poles, discs, and dishes were popular, but the Roundabout at Willen Lake was voted the best by all the children who went out on that trip.

Following a quote and a site visit by the manufacturing company it was agreed to purchase a similar roundabout.

Stony Stratford Children's Centre

Objective 2

Services recognise the child's need to test boundaries and respond positively to that need.

The Play Strategy group will:-

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
Support play providers to recognise the value of play within their provision and promote safe "risk" in play	June 2008	Play Strategy Group
Monitor and promote training opportunities which are made available to play providers.	January 2008	Early Years & Child Care Team
Promote play opportunities by developing a range of promotional material including a play display and leaflets to be shown in a variety of public places.	June 2007	Play Strategy Group
Carry out child impact assessments into how play will affect local communities.	September 2008	Early Years & Child Care Team
Ensure all play provisions have appropriate policies such as risk assessment, behaviour and staff conduct	January 2009	Early Years & Child Care Team

Case Study

To be inserted. MKPA to provide

Objective 3

Services and facilities manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.

The Play Strategy Group will:-

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
On an annual basis listen to what children and young people say about their physical environment and resources and ensure those views are fed to appropriate professionals.	September 2007 September 2008 September 2009	Children Youth & Play Department
Work with partners to set up training information packs on play opportunities, support, insurance, good practice guidelines and Health & Safety in Play settings.	September 2008	Early Years and Child Care Department
Ensure supplementary planning guidelines give detailed advice with regard to play area development.	Ongoing	Landscape & Countryside Department
Liaise with Town/Parish Councils with regards to play provision.	Ongoing	Landscape & Countryside Department
Ensure play providers raise general awareness on issues relating to safety and risk in play settings.	June 2008	Early Years & Childcare Team

Case Study

To be inserted. Steve Crowther to provide

Objective 4

The Council and its partners maximise the range of play opportunities.

The Play Strategy Group will:-

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
Support the proposal to locate responsibility for the maintenance of play areas and facilities within local communities (Parish/Town Councils) and monitor the take up of local management.	January 2008	Landscape & Countryside Department
Work specifically with Landscape Department to review play areas in Milton Keynes, in conjunction with children and young people's views.	September 2008	Landscape & Countryside Department
Support funding opportunities for specific play requirements, particularly those with older young people across the Borough.	September 2008	Children Youth & Play
Liaise with the police to make play opportunities as secure as possible.	September 2007	Landscape & Countryside Department
Ensure children and young people have access to rich and stimulating environments through the delivery of Council Children's Centres, Sure Start Children's Centres, Day Nurseries, Play Schemes and support to Voluntary Sector through grants to organisations such as The Play Association and Pre-School Learning Alliance.	Ongoing	Childcare Team
Encourage community involvement in play, by promotion.	September 2007	Play Strategy Group

Case Studies

NATIONAL PLAY DAY 2006

Wednesday the 2nd of August saw the Four Council Children's Centre's coming together at Stony Stratford Children's Centre to celebrate the 2006 National Playday.

With the theme 'Keeping Active' for Play day in mind the Children's Centres decided and planned a very energetic day for the 115 children who attended.

The Centres each brought their own activities to share with all, these included Sumo wrestling, bouncy castles, human inflatable table football, tug o war, Disco, Giant Go Cart time trial, Water Slide, Penalty shoot out, Darlek costume making for the Warren children's centre, who were taking part in the Bletchley Carnival, ice creams and a massive picnic and loads more.....

The feedback from children and staff included comments such as ' fantastic get together we need to do this more often' Carol Cropton MK Play Development Officer. 'Can we do this tomorrow?' child from Netherfield Children's Centre 'it's great to meet and work with other Playworkers on such a large scale project' member of staff from Cold Harbour Children's Centre 'Can I come again I've got a new friend?' child from the Warren Children's Centre.

Objective 5

All provision fosters independence and self.

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
Explore ways of encouraging hard to reach communities to access play by liaising with schools, voluntary and community sector groups and Town/Parish Councils to promote services in hard to reach groups and locations.	January 2008	Play Strategy Group
Work with Milton Keynes Council Disability Forum to ensure the needs of children and young people with different abilities are met.	September 2007	Play Strategy Group
Provide clear and accurate information about play opportunities in the Borough by working with stakeholders to monitor information and ensure they are appropriately advertised ensuring they reach hard to reach communities.	June 2007	Children Information Service
Ensure holiday play provision is adequately promoted including through the local media.	June 2007 June 2008 June 2009	Children information Service

Case Studies

I was nervous about sending my children Lily and Thomas, I have only just returned to work and have still not got used to leaving them. Lily is my special girl; she is very sociable but has mobility and speech problems.

They loved going to the play centre; they had so much fun. Lily made me a clay elephant, which she is so proud of. The staff were so caring, and were prepared to help her with her personal care. They took time to get to know Lily, she was involved, She made new friends and it made me feel better to see her big smile and wave as she went in, in the morning.

The variety of activities on offer and trips out was something that Thomas enjoyed and he spent a lot of time was out playing football with his friends... they could do what they wanted, they enjoyed themselves and had fun. Thomas has asked if he can go back next holiday, and I know that Lily would.

Joanna Parent of
Thomas aged 11 and
Lily aged 7

The Play Away scheme has had many benefits.

It is funding that we have used to sponsor a member of staff, to pay their wages and for their training.

These benefits include:-

To the Centre

- Increased our networking and partnership working
- Enabled us to be more inclusive by removing financial restrictions on some activities and opening up the centre up to families and communities that would not normally use us.
- Increased awareness of the work of the centre in the local community

To the Children

- Included and enabled them to be involved
- Developed new friendships
- Experienced new and diverse opportunities.

To the Families

- Affordable quality play and care
 - Sharing skills, and opportunities for work experience.
 - Created new support networks for families
- Many have said it has had a positive impact on family life

Objective 6

Each setting fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
To explore opportunities for the integration of play opportunities, joining up Milton Keynes Council, Voluntary Sector and private providers.	January 2008	Play Strategy Group
To work with stakeholders and partners to deliver a Borough wide Play Day for children and young people to extend opportunities for them to meet other children and young people and promote play in Milton Keynes	August 2007 August 2008 August 2009	Play Strategy Group
To ensure play is accessible to all by:- a) Monitoring use of both equipped play areas and play provision, with particular reference to BME communities and children and young people with different abilities. b) Analysing data and identify gaps c) Working with specific communities to develop play opportunities.	September 2008	Play Strategy Group

Case Studies

To be inserted.

Objective 7

All parties seek to foster the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

Objective	Timescale	Accountability
Monitor the range of training opportunities for all those working/volunteering in play	September 2007	Early Years and Childcare Team
Work with schools to offer support and training to mid-day supervisors and learning support assistants to promote play	September 2007	Play Strategy Group
Work with Extended Schools to ensure prominence of play opportunities in all future developments.	Ongoing	Play Strategy Group
Ensure all schools and Early Years Childcare providers are aware of the role of the Play Strategy and receive all Play information, and access to training opportunities.	September 2007	Play Strategy Group
Work together to establish new and innovative ways of working in partnership with schools, private sector and voluntary sector through an Annual Play Conference.	October 2008	Play Strategy Group
Publicise, promote and disseminate the new play strategy across all Council departments, all stakeholders and wider public.	March 2007	Play Strategy Group
Support the work of Sure Start and the Children's Fund activities in priority areas.	Ongoing	Play Strategy Group
Create child friendly Play rights summary for children and young people	June 2007	Children Youth & Play

Case Study.

To be inserted. Audrey Russell to provide

Play Opportunities in Milton Keynes

There are a number of agencies and organisations involved in play in the Borough. These include Milton Keynes Council, Town and Parish Councils, the voluntary community and private sectors.

The table below identifies the range of departments within Milton Keynes Council and of the Council's partners that make a contribution to play opportunities and briefly outlines their responsibilities.

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL	RESPONSIBILITY
Community Development and Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy development • Moorlands Family Centre • Helping community groups to access funding to enhance or develop services
Children and Young People's Rights Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children and young people's participation in the democratic process • Champion the rights of the child under the UN Convention •
Parish Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Area Enhancement Fund • Parish Partnership Fund
Landscape and Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanson Environmental Study Centre • Development of Landscape and Countryside strategy • Design of play areas • The adoption of play areas • The determination of design Standards
Land Use and Transport (Planning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure developers include appropriate provision
Parks and Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Parks and Open Spaces Strategy • Inspections of play areas • Maintenance of play areas
Youth Service – Children Youth and Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Centres Play Schemes • Support transition from play to youth provision through youth centres, outreach and detached work, youth information counselling and advice.
Leisure Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Leisure Facilities Strategy which includes references to play • Active Communities Programmes
Early Years and Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage grant aid to MK Play Association,

	<p>Sure Start and MK Pre-School Learning Alliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage educational practitioners to identify opportunities for play within the learning environment • Support voluntary and private childcare groups • Support school age childcare provision
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide play resources and play opportunities

PARTNERS	RESPONSIBILITY
Milton Keynes Play Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the value of play for school age children and young people • Offers play work training • Delivers open access Play opportunities • Provides resources • Provides information, advice guidance to all Play providers, formal and informal.
Town and Parish Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities for some play areas, parks and playing fields. Ways are being explored to develop further links.
Children's Centres Management Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the out of school and holiday plan needs of children and families
Pre School Learning Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports early years projects and offers training
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports principles of Government's National Childcare Strategy • Ensure quality of early years, Playwork and childcare provision. • Provides the Childcare Information Service.
Parks Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a wide range of play opportunities in its parks
English Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a policy and guidelines for developers with regard to play provision
Sure Start (Local programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based programme which addresses issues of child poverty and social exclusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the well being of families and young children under 4 years
Children's Fund Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages locally a strand of government funding which supports children and families in areas of need
Voluntary Sector (NCH and Children's Society Family Centres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports play opportunities in pre-schools, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs, playschemes, toy libraries and informal community groups.
MK Racial Equality Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers guidance on issues relating to equality and the needs of Black and Ethnic Minority communities in the Borough
Milton Keynes Community Mobile Play Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides mobile community bus
Thames Valley Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises on community safety issues
Primary Care Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors assess the development of children and refer families to Social Services and day care provision.
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play facilities as part of commercial clubs and pubs. • Crèche facilities in the CentreMK. • Activity World, Gambados, indoor soft play centre, Kompan • Gulliver's Kingdom – theme park for children 8 and under • Xscape building – provision of skiing and snowboarding activity. • Private childcare providers
ChYPPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium of voluntary organisations representing children and young people on strategic groups and consulting with Milton Keynes on policies/strategies

Policy Context for Play

The rationale for play is clearly part of both Government and local Government strategies in Milton Keynes.

The Play Strategy makes a major contribution to:-

1. Every Child Matters

Being Healthy - By giving children and young people the opportunity to take part in exercise, access the Borough's play areas, health programmes in Children's Centres and Play Schemes, as well as helping them to develop healthy relationships and encouraging self esteem. Play offers opportunities to reduced childhood obesity and improve mental health

Staying Safe Through ensuring Milton Keynes play areas are kept up to appropriate health and safety checks and giving children and young people safe play opportunities in Children's Centres and Play Schemes.

By ensuring all Milton Keynes staff are trained in issues around child protection.

"By giving children and young people opportunities to assess their own safety, both personal and physical", and the references to play types and play work principles:

Play provision aims to support all types of play, as outlined in Bob Hughes "A Playworkers Taxonomy of Play Types" (PLAYLINK, 2002), and those working in Play should work to the Playwork Principles (endorsed by SkillsActive, May 2005)

Enjoy and Achieve Through a variety of settings in Milton Keynes, children and young people have a choice of activities, which they can independently choose and achieve to their own goals. Children and young people have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

Making a positive Contribution By consulting with children and young people about the type of provision they want and developing those particular opportunities particularly working with Parish Councils and other stakeholders and partners and creating opportunities such as the Skate MK project in Central Milton Keynes.

Economic Well Being The variety of childcare in Milton Keynes gives parents the opportunity to work or train knowing the children are

happy and safe. A variety of skills gained through play in Milton Keynes give children and young people the opportunity to gain employment and have positive relationships in adult life.

2. Milton Keynes Children's and Young People's Plan

The Children's and Young Peoples Plan vision is that

"All children and young people will be supported to reach their full potential"

The variety of play opportunities available in Milton Keynes ensures that children and young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential through their own choice of setting and activity.

3. Joint Area Review

In the 2006 Joint Area Review of Milton Keynes Services the inspectors said

"Planning of play and recreational opportunities is thorough and targets disadvantaged areas"

Ofsted June 2006

Monitoring

The partners in the Play Strategy Group have developed this plan together. Progress against the objectives will be monitored and reviewed by the Play Strategy Group on a regular basis.

Play Strategy Group

The Play Strategy Group includes:-

Name	Title	Work Base
Sue Payne	Children Youth and Play Manager	MKC Saxon Court
Andrew Ridgway	Youth Worker	
Briony Serginson	Community Team Leader	Parks Trust
Christine Thompson	Health Visitor for West Zone	MKPCT
Frank Crookenden – Johnson	Play Services Manager	Play Association
Carol Cropton	Play Development Officer	MKC Saxon Court
Steve Crowther	Landscape & Countryside Manager	MKC Civic Offices
Mary Davies	Resident	
John Price	Team Leader – Landscape Resources	MKC – Bleak Hall
Moriah Priestley	Senior Community Development Officer	MKC Saxon Court
Tracey Purnell	Childcare Development Worker	Galley Hill
Audrey Russell	Childcare Development Worker	Galley Hill
David Butler	Play Leader	Stony Stratford Children's Centre