

20 July 2021

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a Remote meeting of the **YOUTH COMMITTEE** of Acton Community Council to be held remotely in accordance with Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 on **Tuesday 26 JULY 2022 at 6.30pm**. The business to be transacted is as set out in the agenda below.

Please note that the Meeting and those participating will be recorded. To join the Meeting online please use the Meeting ID: 821 0930 0004 and the Passcode: 356299 or you can click on this hyperlink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82109300004?pwd=elVnNEg3K1k5QWdyeTIHZG5lNU5RUT09>

Yours Sincerely

Carole Roberts

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

- 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:** To appoint a Chair of the Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR:** To appoint a Vice Chair of the Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
- 4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.
The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of a meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it. You may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is prejudicial. A personal interest is prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest and it relates to a financial or regulatory matter.
- 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee held on 27 January 2022 as submitted to the Meeting of the Community Council on 15 February 2022 (Copy attached)
- 6. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
- 7. TERMS OF REFERENCE: (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) :** The Youth Committee was re-appointed at the Annual Community Council meeting held in May 2022 with the following **Terms of Reference**:
 1. To **keep under** review and develop **emerging** options to enable future Service providers to provide Pilot or other Youth Projects across any of the five Acton Community Wards ensuring they are fit for purpose and reflect the requirements of the Community Council and current best practice;
 2. To receive and monitor from existing and any future Service providers, reports to the Community Council on any subsequent projects to include performance monitoring reports to ensure the Service Specification is being met and such Projects represent good value for money;
 3. To monitor the reporting requirements contained within the Service Level Agreements with the Caia Park Partnership to provide Youth Work Projects for 8-18 year olds for two sessions of Youth Work for 8-12 & 13-18 year olds per week at the Acton Community Resource Centre.

4. To bring any concerns about the performance or effectiveness of the current and any future Provider or Project immediately to the attention of the full Council.
5. To investigate and report its findings and recommendations back to the Council on the feasibility of implementing the Recommendations of the 2018 Borrass Park Play Sufficiency Assessment with focus initially on zero or minimal cost projects that can build on their success unless Wrexham County Borough Council Officers are able to identify funding for larger projects as part of its "Play Pledge"; and
6. In the first instance, the primary focus of the Youth Committee shall be on Recommendations 2 and 3 from the 2018 Play Sufficiency Assessment (WCBC) namely :-
 - i- To develop a program of community activities, events and projects to be carried out in partnership with Wrexham CBC, the Acton Park Seasonal Park Ranger and established Community Groups such as the Friends of Acton Park; and
 - ii- to press for the Local Education Authority and Schools themselves to enable and permit access to school grounds during evenings, weekends and school holidays to enable young people to play safely and away from traffic in their own neighbourhood.
7. The scope of the Service Level Agreement with the Caia Park Partnership can be extended to encompass emergency Detached Youth Work in response to any further Covid 19 Measures that may be put in place to ensure continued service delivery of the Projects that may have to be held outdoors in accordance with National and Welsh Government advice and guidance and in order to react to any emerging risks in the future.

8. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT –ACTON YOUTH WORK PROJECTS: To receive and consider the attached report and other information to be provided at the meeting by representatives of the Caia Park Partnership in respect of the 2021/22 Year End (to be circulated separately) and the Quarter 1 performance monitoring to 30 June 2022 on the operation of this Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Open Access Youth Service (Copy attached)

9. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT – FOCUSED PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN: Further to Minute 27 June 2022, the Play Development Team have been invited to attend this meeting to enable a wider discussion about more focussed provision of services for children.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE: (Chair of the Council Councillor Kevin Roberts (ex officio) together with Councillors Caroline Bettley, Roger Davies, Anne Evans, Andy Gallanders, Corin Jarvis, and Phil Lloyd.)

PLEASE NOTE:

THE AGENDA IS ALSO BEING CIRCULATED TO ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION

Minutes of the YOUTH COMMITTEE held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 25 JANUARY 2021

Present: Councillor Kevin Roberts (Chair)
" Caroline Bettley (Vice Chair)
" Mike Davies
" Elinor Doherty
" Mrs Anne Evans *
" Sian Hope *

* Absent

Also Present: Mr Jon Stumpp, Caia Park Partnership
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Evans and Sian Hope.

10. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations made at this stage of the proceedings

11. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee held on 27 July 2021 as submitted to the Meeting of the Community Council on 21 September 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

12. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that the Council at its meeting on 21 September 2021 had accepted the following recommendation of the Youth Committee (Minute 15.iii refers):

“that any savings made to the costs of the 2021/22 Service Level Agreement for the Acton Youth Work Project as result of savings for room hire costs be used to purchase additional equipment for the Youth Club and to fund the provision of travel opportunities to address the skills shortage identified by this Youth Work Project to enable Young People to be confident and proficient in using public transport.”

13. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Youth Committee was appointed at the Annual Community Council meeting held in May 2021 and its Terms of Reference (ToR) were noted. In respect of ToR No.7 regarding the 2018 Play Sufficiency Assessment, Members were unclear as to what progress if any, had been made during the Covid 19 Pandemic period. It was noted the next meeting of the Youth Committee was scheduled in the diary for 26 April 2022 but this may be cancelled due to the Local Council elections being held on 5 May 2022.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk write to the Play Development Team of Wrexham County Borough Council to request an update and report to the next meeting of the Youth Committee upon the progress being made on implementation of the 2018 recommendations and to ascertain when the next Play Sufficiency Assessment is due.

14. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT –ACTON YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

The Committee received and consider the reports and other information provided at the meeting by representatives of the Caia Park Partnership in respect of the 2021/22 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 performance monitoring to 31 December 2021 on the operation of this Service Level Agreement for the provision of an Open Access Youth Service. It was noted that the October 2021 meeting of the Youth Committee was postponed and accordingly the reports for Quarters 2 and 3 were now being presented to the meeting.

During consideration of the Report the following matters were highlighted: -

- New Welsh Government Guidance had been issued in January 2022 and it was hoped to return to more normal Centre based activities and service provision subject to ongoing Covid restrictions. It had been challenging to continue to provide an adaptive and reactive Service in response to the ever changing Welsh Government restrictions over the last two years. In the main, Detached Youth Work rather than Centre based provision had been used apart from a short period when the area in proximity to the Resource Centre had been used.
- It was anticipated that the numbers of Young People returning to the Centre based provision would initially be less due to the older cohort moving on and their perceptions changing. There was in effect a lost generation of Young People in Acton. The Youth Workers' initial focus now will be on meeting the needs of the older cohort with somewhere warm to meet and chill-out zones at the Resource Centre. The Team will be seeking and encouraging a younger cohort to participate at the Resource Centre and develop activities for the previous attendees. The long term aim was to return to the higher pre-Covid levels of attendance for the Open Access Youth Project. During the darker winter months it had been difficult to reach the really young 8-12 cohort via Detached Youth work sessions due to their age and parental restrictions.
- Limited events and sessions had been organised elsewhere including the World Children's Day at Ty Pawb on 18 November 2021 which had included a number of the young people from Acton
- Moving forward the team are working to develop a full quarterly programme for Pancake day, St David's Day, Chinese New Year and a creepy crawly evening at the Centre. It was hoped these events will again spread the news of the Centre being open at its regular times on a Wednesday evening and numbers will continue to increase to achieve engagement comparable to the pre-Pandemic levels
- The impact of the Pandemic on the Mental Health of Young People was highlighted together with other work the Caia Park Partnership had been involved with in providing the Aim High project of 1-2-1 mentoring for referred young people; some of whom were already known to them through other service provision. The Pandemic had also affected staffing levels and recruitment. Currently there were several Youth Worker vacancies being advertised and it was hoped that following appointments, a dedicated Youth Worker team can be put in place for the Acton provision.
- Members referred to the importance of communicating with the Acton Community Young People, particularly through social media, and to ensure consistency with where the Youth Workers will be; and where the service delivery is, preferably at a given time and place. Some opportunities had been lost for Detached Outreach work at the sunken gardens in Maesydre, Rhosnesni, and Borrass. This issue had been highlighted as part of the Council's new Community Engagement initiative
- The Youth Workers had tried several innovative and improvised ideas during the lockdown such as the use of tents and gazebos for their sessions with varying degrees of success. Around the Country, many Youth Services had shut down during the Pandemic. The Acton staff had tried to provide something in the Community which was not necessarily in the SLA. The Open Youth provision would now have to be developed from scratch again, however there was the ability and experience to do that again;

- Members referred to several successful events that had recently been held in Acton Park, the merits of actively involving the Youth Workers in future as part of any other volunteer Park based events and any other environmental/litter picking events in the Community. The importance of the Youth Team feeding regular updates and information to the Community Council was stressed so that it too can help promote the Open Access Youth Work being carried out under this Service Level Agreement through its social media and other Acton Community based Facebook pages.
- It has been over three years since the Caia Park Partnership team had accessed local Schools to promote the free open access youth project and Members of the Council were asked to try and facilitate this again as School Governors wherever possible.

Members acknowledged the difficulties that had been faced by the Acton Youth workers in terms of gaining access to the Resource Centre and concluding risk assessments. However it was important to have the next quarter end report submitted to the Youth Committee Meeting scheduled in April 2022 to demonstrate the progress being made and the direction of travel for this Service level Agreement.

RESOLVED –

- i) to receive and accept the second and third quarter reports as now submitted in accordance with the Service Level Agreement and to thank the Caia Park Partnership Officers for listening and seeking to address Members concerns as set out above; and***
- ii) A further monitoring report after the end of quarter four be submitted by the Caia Park Partnership to the next Youth Committee proposed for Tuesday 26 April 2022.***

Councillor Kevin Roberts, Presiding Chair

Signed as a correct record this 26th day of July 2022

Presiding Chair

CAIA PARK PARTNERSHIP LTD:

**Contract Monitoring
between
Acton Community Council
and
Caia Park Partnership Ltd**

Quarter 1 Report April - June 2022



SERVICE DELIVERY APRIL - JUNE 2022

QUARTER 1

Moving into Quarter one, the team had some real hopes that the ongoing engagement work throughout the Covid pandemic, coupled with word spreading of the Youth Club sessions restarting, would see us return to the engagements levels we were experiencing before the enforced closures.

We are happy to inform the council that our hopes and expectations have been surpassed greatly, with as many as 35 young people now regularly attending our Junior sessions and as many as 25 attending the Senior sessions.

The levels of engagement once word spread of our reopening, has been massively uplifting for the team as a whole, as this rise in numbers is something we have experienced across many of our Open Access sessions, across all of our various SLA's.

Acton, in particular

As mentioned in the previous report, Andy Watson, our Senior Youth Worker in Charge, has taken over as Senior Worker for both Acton Youth Club sessions. Andy had a familiarity with the club, having worked numerous sessions as cover for Niall before he left. Andy also covered a great deal of the detached work undertaken throughout the lockdown periods. Although many of the young people attending now are new, there are still several across both sessions that know Andy and he has settled into the role well, gaining some good relationships alongside John, with both those attending the sessions as well as many of the parents that now drop their children off each week.

As expected, many of the Junior group attend the local school and it is through word of mouth in class that we have seen the rise in attendance at this session. It now seems that most of years 5 and 6 are attending the session weekly. We do have other local juniors attending the session that attend schools outside of the area and it has been really good to see these young people accepted into the already formed friendship groups that already exist and quickly make new friends.





The Senior group have also proven to be a unique blend of young people from a variety of backgrounds that have formed into a really well knit group of friends over recent months.

I have spoken in the past, of the camaraderie within both groups when they first formed as clubs reopened and it has been a joy for us, as a team, to watch as this has developed into strong friendships as both groups

have expanded and new members have joined across this quarter.

Both groups have enjoyed a range of activities over the last quarter which I will cover in more detail as this report progresses. We found that we unfortunately had to change our programme on several occasions for the junior sessions, mainly due to the higher numbers attending our Risk Assessments were forced to be reviewed. We have begun a process of seeking either an extra member of staff or a volunteer to help with the junior sessions in particular. We were still able to successfully hold the club pool competition and find alternative activities for any re-arranged sessions.

Fortunately, we have the little field adjacent to the centre and as many of those attending the junior session love to play a variety of sports, we are able to offer football, badminton, volleyball, rounders etc outside. This helps to reduce the numbers of young people inside the centre at any one time and fits within CPP and Acton Resource Centre's ongoing Covid 19 Guidance and risk assessments.



Andy and John have also discussed holding one or two sessions in Acton Park during the Summer Holidays, as opposed to the centre, as this offers us the chance to hold a number of team activities in a bigger space as the little field can get bit cramped if 2 or 3 things are going on outside.

An ongoing problem we have noticed is the continued use of electric scooters by members of both groups. The team have repeatedly asked the young people not to bring them and although some have been receptive, others have still shown up on them. We have mentioned the issue to several parents and we are also intend to start sending direct messages to other parents should the trend continue.

ACTON JUNIORS

As I have already mentioned, the growth in numbers at our Junior sessions has way exceeded any expectations the team may have had. Within a matter of weeks our numbers rose from the initial 15 to as many as 35 by the end of the quarter. This rise has predominantly come from word of mouth at the local school but we do have several attendees that attend schools outside the Acton area.

The sudden rise in numbers did force us to sometimes make dynamic decisions in regards to what we had planned for a particular session, mainly on health and safety grounds but we were always able to provide a suitable alternative that offered a fun activity, whilst keeping those participating as safe as possible.

Over the course of the quarter, the group have been offered a wide range of activities, aimed at helping build their relationships as a group, offer opportunities for expression and also offer a friendly bit of competition.

The team always offer some level of opportunity for Arts and Crafts during each session and over the course of this quarter, the group have made Easter and Father's Day cards, Resin Jewellery and a variety of wristbands and other fun items with Loom bands.

The group really look forward to us putting the craft box out each week and those not particularly interested in that weeks activity, will often sit painting or drawing themselves and still sit as part of the main group.

We currently have an ongoing competition within the group to create a logo for the Junior Youth Club. So far we have around 6 entries but we have said we will run it until the end of August to offer everyone a chance to enter, should they wish to do so.



Another Art and Craft related competition that the group were able to enter was held in partnership with Ramblers Cymru. CPP has recently begun some partnership work with Ramblers Cymru which will culminate in the building of several new footpaths in and around the Wrexham County Borough. As part of this partnership, we ran a competition

across all clubs, asking the young people to design some of the way markers that will be situated along each footpath. We had numerous entries across a range of our clubs and we were really pleased when 2 young people from the Acton Junior group placed 1st and 3rd respectively. Their designs will now be used along some of the new footpaths and will hopefully remain in place for many years to come.

The Ps5 continues to be a major crowd pleaser and we regularly use the big screen above the doors to offer a somewhat more cinematic experience for those wanting a bit of competition on Fifa or to test their driving skills on Gran Turismo.

The group held the planned pool competition over the course of three sessions during the quarter with the winner now waiting for our other clubs to complete their own before moving on to the final competition, hopefully over the Summer holidays.

Our planned bug visit has been postponed due to the fact that Andy would need to focus on the animals, meaning that John would be left alone to run the session but we have made plans to hold it over the summer when a colleague of ours, Chris Jones is available to offer support for the session.

Many members of this group are very active, being members of a variety of different sports teams. The



team are able to use this to their advantage during the busiest of sessions and we regularly use the field alongside the centre to hold a range of sports activities. The group have played rounders, football, badminton and volleyball, amongst other outside activities such as hide and seek. The use of the outside area has proven beneficial in keeping

the number of people inside the centre down but the team have already discussed the difficulties we may face if 35 attend a session and the weather is not conducive with holding outside activities.

Another popular activity the group enjoy is bingo and we regularly end sessions by tidying up the activities from each session and holding a quick game before the young people leave.

Our end of quarter trip is planned for July 20th at Tenpin Wrexham. This was at the request of the group as they enjoyed it so much last time we took them and they are looking for revenge on John for beating them last time.



ACTON SENIORS

Our Senior sessions have developed in much the way our junior sessions have as the quarter progressed. Word of mouth around schools and our initial use of social media to advertise opening has led to the group now having as many as 25 attend.

As I have already mentioned, the group is formed of teenagers ranging from the age of 13 – 16, most of which are from different backgrounds and social situations but they have also formed into a really well gelled group and we often sit discussing a variety of issues ranging from local politics to LGBTQ+ issues.



These are another quite expressive group that regularly enjoy taking part in Art and Craft activities and over the course of the quarter they have decorated wooden spoons, made Easter and Father's day cards and even had a go at a bit of body art.

As always, we continue to offer the club staple activities of pool, table tennis and the Ps5.

It has been interesting to watch some of the group develop on the table tennis. Something they picked up for an initial laugh has seen them realise that they do actually have the ability to hold a rally and play quite competently.

Quite often, members of this group can be found sitting in their own little 'Chill Out' space on the bean bags, using the Bluetooth speaker to listen to music and making the most of having a safe space to come and meet their friends and get together as what has turned out to be quite a large group.



I have previously spoken of the fact that many of the senior group identify as non binary, with some declaring themselves members of the LGBTQ+ community. Over recent weeks we have held discussions regarding our end of quarter trip for the group. A number of possibilities were suggested but unfortunately, the size of the group nowadays led to some logistical concerns. The group had suggested a trip to Liverpool which could be done on the train but more recently it is looking most likely that the group will attend Chester Pride 22 on 13th August, alongside members of several of our other services. This is an event CPP Youth Team have attended before, having taken 16 young people to the most recent Chester

Pride in 2019. The group are really looking forward to the day and we will provide further updates in our next quarterly report.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM THIS QUARTER:

- The increase in attendance as word spread of the clubs reopening
- Really good relationships being developed between the team and the young people attending sessions
- Relationship building between the staff team and the parents of many of the junior group
- Andy settling into the club in his role as Senior Worker

NEGATIVES:

- The increased number of attendees means more dynamic decisions being made regarding health and safety
- Having to replan activities to accommodate higher numbers

The team feel that our first full quarter has proven again that all the legwork carried out throughout lockdown has paid dividends once we reopened. As you can see, the only negatives the team have to report are a result of our most positive achievement.....an increase in those attending sessions. The team are now more able to account for higher attendances when planning activities and take it into account when making decisions on what activities can be managed safely.

End of 2022/23 Q1 SLA Report

The Play Development Team have been invited to attend this meeting to enable a wider discussion about more focussed provision of services for children. No Further information has been provided by the Team. For the convenience of Members, a copy of the Minutes from the June 2022 meeting is set out below together with a copy of the information presented to the meeting

MINUTE 27 PLAY DEVELOPMENT /SUFFICIENCY SURVEY

Further to Minute 126.ii) February 2022:, the Chair welcomed Gareth Stacey and Jay Davies from the Play Development Team, Wrexham CBC who presented their report on the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessment being carried out in accordance with the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012. The Team also invited the Council's response on a proposal to consider funding additional Staffed Play Provision in 2022/23.

Mr Stacey set out the context of the Statutory legislation for the Play Sufficiency Duty to identify whether there are sufficient opportunities to play or areas where there is a deficit in children's play and then to produce a Plan to remove barriers to children's play. The options for play in the public realm are impacted by decisions of departments within the Local Authority and third sector organisations.

In relation to the Acton Community, the 2018 local Play Sufficiency assessment had researched the context for Borrass Park at a local level and sought to identify options to play in terms of time, space and permission which are key drivers to Children's play. The 2021 update provided information obtained from Year 5 children. Further research within the Acton Community due to its high response rate, revealed just below average satisfaction levels. A detailed look at location and factors, identified a decrease in opportunities to play, with only 59% of children being able to play due to signage, parental permission and the impact of Covid (a key factor in the way children can play due to the lockdown restrictions being an inevitable impact). The Play Development Team are required to meet this need and develop some Community events despite capacity constraints within the Team. Working with Schools is a good option and the Team recognised it needs to increase its capacity to compliment that. Recent work with Acton school was cited as an example.

The officers advised that nine Community Councils fund targeted provision within a public space that increase parental consent for play within a Community. The officers confirmed Wrexham CBC does not make provision for a two hour Play session within the Acton Community as it does within other community areas.

It was noted Acton Community Council currently provide funding for an open access Youth Club and a part time Park Ranger who as part of her duties is arranging events within Acton Park. The numbers of children attending such events are massive. The Council cannot fund anything additional and suggested the Play Development Team should work together jointly at the events being organised by the Youth Club and Park Ranger. Play is essential for young people and their health. There is value in involving parents in children's play activities as this appears to be the best way to engage them.

RESOLVED –

- i) To thank the officers for their attendance and to receive and note the presentation***
- ii) The Play Development team be advised to contact and work jointly with the Community Council funded Park Ranger to liaise over planned events in the Park and the Caia Park Partnership to make contact with the Children attending the Youth Club,***
- iii) That an item be included on the Agenda for the Youth Committee meeting on 26 July 2022 for further and wider discussion about more focussed provision of services for children with any further information being sent by the Play Development Team to the Clerk for circulation in advance of the meeting.***

The play and youth support team are currently completing Wrexham's play sufficiency assessment 2022. As per the Welsh Government statutory duty placed on local authorities this is due to be completed every three years with the previous assessment completed in 2019. This assessment provides the local authority with their key priorities for improving play within the county over the coming three years.

Overall Satisfaction

Satisfaction surveys are integral to understanding children's sufficiency with their play opportunities. The online survey asked children a series of questions about their time, space and permission for play before asking them to rate their overall satisfaction with their opportunities for play by choosing one of the following options:

- It's great and couldn't be made much better
- It's good but could be made even better
- It's OK but needs to be made a bit better
- It's not good and needs to be made better
- It's rubbish and needs to be made much better

In 2021 71.1% of children rated their satisfaction with their opportunities for play as "good" or "great", 20.6% rated it as "ok but in need of improvement" and 8.3% rated it "not good" or "rubbish" This compares with 78.4%, 16.7% and 4.8% in 2018, suggesting a 7.3% decrease in the number of children who report experiencing play sufficiency.

Survey Year	No. of responses	Overall satisfaction rating					
		% Great	% Good	% Great or Good	% OK	% Not Good	% Rubbish
2021	1277	38.1	33.0	71.1	20.6	4.4	3.9
2018	1248	41.7	36.8	78.4	16.7	2.7	2.1
2015	1066	36.2	36.8	73	19	4.8	3.2
2012	90	34.4	33.3	67.7	24.4	6.6	1.1

As the table above demonstrates there has been a significant drop in the satisfaction levels of children in Wrexham of 7.3% additionally there has been an increase in children reporting that their opportunities to play is 'not good' (increase:1.7%) and 'Rubbish' (increase 1.8%).

What is clear from the results is that the COVID pandemic has had a negative impact on children's satisfaction with their opportunities to play. 86.2% of all children surveyed reported that Covid-19 (and the WG restrictions) has had an impact on how they usually play.

Play Sufficiency in Acton

The 2021 child satisfaction survey results has enabled us to focus on specific communities to explore and identify factors that promote or constrain conditions for play. Please see Acton results below –

Acton - PSA Data	%/num	overall
Number of responses:	120	
Satisfaction:	69.20%	71.1
Time:	67.10%	72.0
Space:	76.30%	78.9
Permission:	59.20%	67.3
Covid:	57.10%	56.8
Average number of spaces:	3	4

The percentages show that children's satisfaction with Time, Space and Permission are all below the average for the county within Acton. Furthermore the permission indicator above is less than 10% of the average therefore suggesting this is a key area in improving opportunities for children in the area.

Local PSA Recommendations

As you will be aware 5 recommendations were suggested as part of the local PSA conducted in 2018, as below:

- 1) Organise regular temporary street closures for play
- 2) Develop a program of community events
- 3) Agree access to school grounds
- 4) Remove 'no ball games' signs
- 5) Develop a master plan for Acton Park

The subsequent local assessment and wider research suggests that these recommendations are still relevant to the community. Following a two year period of COVID-19 which has affected all service areas and operation, the play and youth team are now running back up to pre pandemic capacity. With this in mind it may be an appropriate time to consider community based provision. Experience within the team has shown us that where there is year round community play provision attitudes of adults towards children's play becomes more tolerant and ultimately more permissive. Please see accompanying letter with provision details and costs.

Pennaeth Addysg/Head of Education

Karen Evans

Stryt y Lampint, Wrexham LL11 1AR

Lampit Street, Wrexham LL11 1AR

Ffôn/Tel: 01978 292000

www.wrexham.gov.uk www.wrexham.gov.uk



Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

Dyddiad/Date

14 June 2022

Gofynner am/Ask for

Rhif Union/Direct Dial

01978 298361

E-bost/E-mail

jay.davies@wrexham.gov.uk

Dear Councillors

Funding for Staffed Play Provision in 2022-2023

2022-2023 play provision costs

We will be continuing to offer play sessions of two hours. Our own experiences and those from other playwork providers suggests that this would be sufficient, with children still getting regular doses of playing and parents still having the opportunity for some regular respite.

We are also recommending that where possible we shift towards the delivery of regular year round play provision, rather than focussing only on school holidays as has previously been the case. Our research indicates this approach would best support children's play and in our experience this leads to children attending more regularly, which in turn supports the development of stronger relationships between staff, children and their families.

With this in mind the cost to Community Councils of funding **one playwork session per week for 48 weeks** of the year (excluding one week at Christmas and one other week) are as follows:

<i>1 x Senior Playworker (NJC G05 point 8)</i>	<i>3.5 hours per week x 52 weeks</i>	<i>£2,486.16</i>
<i>2 x Playworker (NJC G04 point 5)</i>	<i>3 hours per week x 52 weeks</i>	<i>£3,919.52</i>
<i>Recommended Project Costs</i>	<i>including van running costs</i>	<i>£1434.67</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>£7,890.95</i>

However, despite the benefits of shifting to a year round approach, we recognise that the above costs may be prohibitive for some community councils. We therefore remain committed to delivering also staffed play provision on a sessional basis during school holidays. The expected cost per session for school holiday provision in 2021/22 is £137 per session, resulting in the following:

- Cost for a 5 sessions per week throughout Easter, Whit, Summer & October school holidays (total of 45 sessions excluding bank holidays & national playday) = £6,165.
- Cost for a 3 sessions per week throughout Easter, Whit, Summer & October school holidays (total of 25 sessions excluding bank holidays & national playday) = £3,425.
- Cost for a 2 sessions per week throughout Easter, Whit, Summer & October school holidays (total of 20 sessions excluding bank holidays & national playday) = £2,740.

As usual, we are happy to negotiate how many sessions individual community councils may want on a case by case basis. Please contact the team to discuss the 'package' you may require.

Due to the time required to plan and prepare for the delivery of quality provision (including the recruitment, checking and training of staff) please can community councils make us aware of their intentions for the forthcoming financial year as soon as possible.

Historically we have approached community councils on an annual basis, however we would like you to consider committing to a multiple year SLA of 2 or 3 years. A multiple year SLA would also 'lock in' the costs quoted in this letter beyond year 1. We would still provide you with an annual report and would be happy to amend the service each financial year, to ensure the provision met the current demand. This

move would enable us to provide longer contracts to staff, which should help with staff retention. It would make publicity easier and increase cost effectiveness, as we would not have to re-call and amend publicity annually as we have had to do in the past.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Stacey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gareth Stacey

WCBC Assistant Team Lead – Play and Youth