

10 December 2012

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE****DELIVERY OF PLAY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FROM 2013/14****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Sub-Committee on the commissioning of the Council's play provision, and to seek approval for the establishment of a post to directly support the voluntary play and youth sector in Nottinghamshire.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Council's play provision is managed within the Young People's Service. The current play budget totals £387,128. On 23 February 2012, the Council's play budget business case was approved by County Council. This comprised the disestablishment of seven Locality Play Worker posts from 31 March 2013, new commissioning arrangements for play and the creation of a voluntary play and youth sector Technical Specialist post from 1 April 2013. The annual saving to the Council arising from these decisions will be £211,333, with the overall volume of play delivery remaining at its current level.
3. The remaining budget for delivering play will be £175,795, of which £140,000 is to be used to commission direct play provision across Nottinghamshire.
4. The commissioning process commenced on 29 October 2012 with the issue of tender documentation to potential play delivery organisations. The contract will commence on 1 April 2013. **Appendix 1** shows the full play commissioning specification.
5. The remaining budget of £35,795 will be used to directly support voluntary sector play and youth providers across Nottinghamshire, ensuring that provision offered by voluntary partners is safe and appropriate for children and young people to access. The Voluntary Play and Youth Sector Technical Specialist post (1 FTE Hay Band A indicative grade) will be responsible for supporting this area of work in line with the Government's new Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-Being, issued in June 2012.

**Other Options Considered**

6. None. The business case approved by Council in February 2012 authorised in broad terms the arrangements set out in this report.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

7. Nottinghamshire has always provided high quality open access play opportunities across the whole County, based on the rationale that play is an essential part of every child's life and vital to their development. Play is the way children explore the world around them and develop practical skills; it is essential for physical, emotional and intellectual growth, along with the acquisition of social behavioural skills.
8. Through the commissioning process and improved support to the voluntary sector, the Council will be able to provide the same quality and quantity of direct play opportunities, whilst meeting its budget realignment requirements.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Implications for Service Users**

10. This report follows the principles of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being issued in June 2012 to commission those services that can deliver best value through the voluntary/third or private sector. The commissioning process is designed to ensure that the principles of safeguarding, safer recruitment and health and safety are enshrined within the final contract.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the play commissioning process for direct delivery of play in Nottinghamshire from 2013/14 be noted.
- 2) the establishment of a Voluntary Play and Youth Sector Technical Specialist post be approved.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 06/11/12)**

12. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers**

Budget Report: Cabinet on 8 February 2012

Budget Report: County Council on 23 February 2012

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0118